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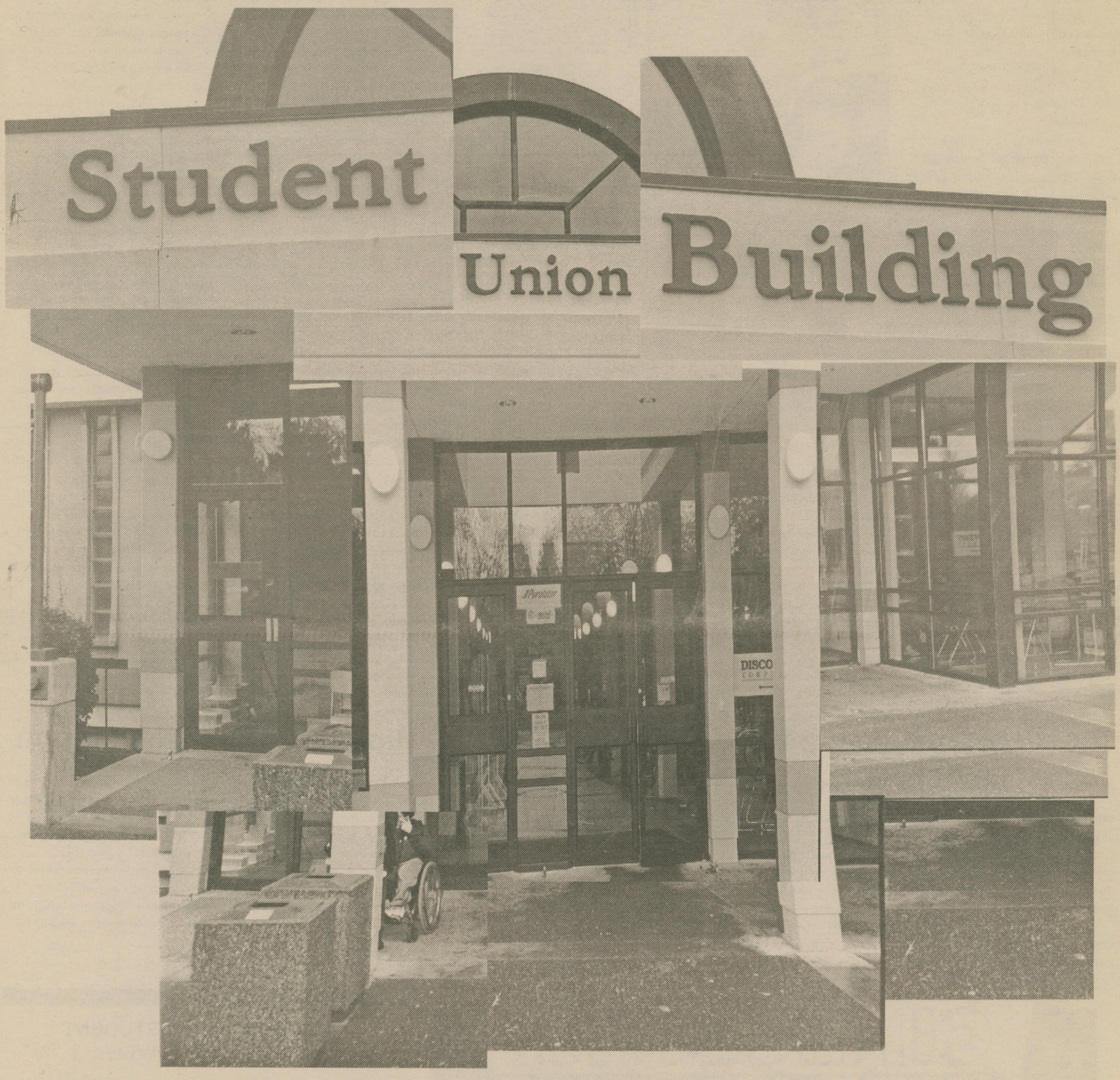
OCTOBER 25 / 2001 [54.12]

SUB INTRIGUE



What happened?

The students' society projected a record surplus but were left with a financial debacle.

full coverage on page 3

photo illustration by Graham Winterbottom

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Cardboard house arrested during protest

By John Thompson

Nobody was arrested during the anti-poverty protest last Tuesday, with the exception of one cardboard house.

Standing 2.1 metres tall, 2.4 metres long and 1.2 metres wide, the house was built by Victoria resident Kevin Neish.

It carried signs like "Disposable Housing for Disposable People," and "Future Low-Cost Housing, $350/month."

It was meant to be used for the anti-poverty protest last Tuesday but it never reached its destination at Bastion Square.

Driving his old '81 pickup truck with the house tied-down in its bed, Neish maneuvered through the backroads of Fernwood without trouble but was spotted by a motorcycle officer at Pandora and Blanchard, where he was pulled over.

The officer told Neish the house didn't look secure, although the house was tied down with three ropes.

"It's big and ungainly, but it's light as a feather - one person can pick it up," Neish said.

Neish tried to negotiate with the police, but they told him that he would offend the Bastion Square merchants if he delivered the home.

Neish argued that Bastion Square was a public park, but the argument ended when the officer told him,"I'm not going to play your silly games. This cardboard house is being seized."

Neish said the police were also concerned the cardboard house was dangerous.

At one point Neish said there were three squad cars, two motorbikes and a staff sergeant on the scene.

photo by John Thompson

Kevin Neish with his contraband cardboard

"Maybe they thought it was a Trojan Horse full of people," he said.

To add to the situation, a tow-truck was parked in front of his pickup truck.

While he wasn't told so by police, Neish suspected he would be towed if he didn't cooperate.

He was charged with two $86 offences: carrying an insecure load and failure to change his driver's license address.

His vehicle was registered to his Victoria home, while his license was registered to his Port Renfew address.

He was told the tickets wouldn't be processed, provided the house was taken directly home.

"We cut a deal: if I cooperated he wouldn't process it," Neish said.

So rather driving three blocks over to Bastion Square, Neish was instead escorted back to his house.

"The insecure load didn't matter as long as I didn't take it to Bastion Square," he said.

Neish thinks his house was arrested for political reasons.

"It's an abuse of the Motor Vehicle Act meant to stifle political dissent," he said. "This is right out of the 1960s," he added, when police ticketed civil activists driving around America, with the understanding that charges would be dropped if they left town.

"I don't think they ever intended to process the tickets, I think they just wanted to scare the hell out of me."

At present Neish said "the house is under house arrest" in his front yard, but he added "there's the possibility of a jail break sometime soon."

Victorians stand in solidarity with Ontario

by John Thompson

One hundred protesters gathered in Bastion Square last week to draw attention to local poverty issues.

Starting in Bastion Square the group marched to Douglas and Fort, where they blockaded the intersection for over an hour.

The protesters were standing in solidarity with the Ontario Common Front's campaign of economic disruption against the Harris government. In Toronto 2000 protesters occupied parts of the financial district on October 16, bringing the downtown core to a standstill

The Common Front is an umbrella group of students, First Nations and organized labour who have joined the Ontario Coalition Against Poverty (OCAP) to protest the Ontario government's cuts to social programs.

"We're here in solidarity with OCAP," said Paul Finch, who added the protest wasn't only against government cutbacks but also touched on underlying business interests that support all governments in this political system.

"This hits at the heart of it for me," said Jerry Meyer, who lives on the streets of Victoria. "You get marginalized, and people won't take you in."

Like many others he blamed the current economic and political system for leaving poverty unaddressed. Activists read Indymedia reports of Toronto protest victories to the crowd accompanied by radical cheers and the distribution of free food while police videotaped protesters and took notes. Many speakers focused on the BC Liberal's withdrawl of social program funding.

Cindy l'Hirondelle, a member of the Anti-Poverty Coalition, denounced the BC Liberals' recent decision to cut welfare funding by 20 to 50 per cent and to implement workfare.

"All of us are going to be affected by these welfare cuts, even those not affected by poverty," she said, adding that workfare will lower all wages.

"All workers will have to compete with $2 per hour workfare workers," she said.

Protesters also drew attention to nearby TD Bank which holds investments in companies logging the Great Bear rainforest, and oil companies with controversial social records, like Talisman Energy and Shell.

After holding the intersection for over an hour the group marched to Jeff Bray's office, the Liberal MLA for Victoria/Beacon Hill. Marchers cooked veggie dogs on a barbecue in front of his office and gave others a chance to speak.

"It's become a privilege to afford a roof over your head in this town," one person said.

According to the Capital Urban Poverty Project 15.5 per cent of the Capital Regional District's population lives below the low-income cut-off line. Of those, 40 per cent identified themselves as First Nations peoples. Youth, women and single parent families are also more likely to live in poverty. The region also has one of the least affordable housing markets in Canada.

The view from inside the bank shows a mix of support and condemnation

by David Ball

Behind the thick glass windows of Royal Bank things were calm.

Customers lined up for money at beeping cash machines, tellers dispensed cash, and footsteps echoed on shiny tile floors.

It seemed like any ordinary banking day if it weren't for a large crowd of protesters outside the doors. Last week nearly one hundred anti-poverty activists blocked the busy downtown intersection between two of Canada's largest banks, TD Bank and Royal Bank.

People inside the banks had mixed opinions about the demonstration.

"I know what people go through," said Maureen, a Royal Bank customer who would only give her first name. "A lot of people can't afford to feed their kids. What are they going to do? The government has got all the money and they don't care what they do to people."

A customer inside TD Bank across the street was less supportive.

"These people are wasting your time," said the customer, who would not give his name. "Poverty? Get a job!"

The protesters accused banks like TD and Royal Bank of meddling in government policies.

Tim Richards, a legal advocate with Victoria's Together Against Poverty Society, said the banks played a big role in policies that hurt the poor.

"One of the fundamental causes of poverty is the economic structure of our society which polarizes wealth and power," Richards said. "[The banks] push the corporate agenda to benefit the wealthy at the cost of impoverishing a large portion of society."

TD Bank would not comment on whether it lobbied against government's public policies, although sources in the bank's management said TD's lobbying was done by the Canadian Bankers Association.

The association represents over 40 banks in Canada and advises the government on the bank's behalf. The Association could not be reached by press time.

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US CRISIS IMPACTS STUDENT CHRISTMAS TRAVEL

The impact of the US terrorism attack upon the travel industry has been devastating and all indications are that the crisis will impact students planning to travel at Christmas.

If you're planning to travel home at Christmas, we encourage you to book a seat now to make sure you have space saved on an affordable ticket.

To help, Travel CUTS has initiated a Travel Request Register.

Register with our staff and we determine suitable transportation options which you can take up at your discretion.

For more information or register online, visit us at www. travelcuts.com.

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UVSS starts to pick up pieces after fiscal shock

by Kevin Groves

The University of Victoria Students' Society (UVSS) is scrambling to recover from the overwhelming deficit made public last week.

A recent routine audit showed that the UVSS deficit from last fiscal year was $311,400, hundreds of thousands of dollars more than they had expected. The society suspects foul play and has initiated a police investigation and a forensic audit. Details of the investigations won't be available until they are complete.

Jonas Gifford, UVSS Director of Finance admitted that it may be weeks or even months before the investigations yield any answers. He added that the society can pull through this financial crisis with minimal effect on students.

"UVSS revenues have almost doubled in the last few years, so we don't have a problem getting people through the door and interested in our services," Gifford said. "We have the strength to build on that."

The UVSS also committed to quarterly reviews by their auditors to make regular reports on their financial status. The first report will be presented in February.

But the real challenge for the next few years will be getting the society's finances into the black after the largest deficit in UVSS history. Members agreed that this goal will take time, but said it can be realized.

"This is far from a lost cause, and I don't think the sky's falling," said newly hired Business Operations Division Manager Jim Gibson. "It's a really good wake up call for us to sharpen our businesses, but not sacrifice quality and value to students."

To accomplish this goal, several key changes are being made in the SUB. The communications process for financial reporting has now been decentralized. From now on, all managers will report directly to the UVSS Finance Committee headed by Gifford, instead of the Business Operations Division Manager.

"Basically we're taking what used to be a very centralized process and breaking it down, so it's not all going through one point anymore," Gifford said.

They are also taking measures to improve SUB efficiency and prevent unnecessary waste. Food Services Manager Brad Mielke said his division is working hard to make sure all loose ends are dealt with.

"We're making sure there are no discrepancies and that waste is accounted for if someone makes a mistake," Mielke said.

Managers are also pushing for increased security in food storage areas, which they hope will lower supply costs and prevent possible theft.

But there could also be some drastic changes on the horizon that will affect students directly.

The real challenge for the next few years will be getting the society's finances into the black. Members agreed that this goal will take some time, but said it can be realized.

In an interview with the Martlet last Friday, former SUB General Manager Doug Ausman said that Felicitas might have to raise prices in order to increase revenues, though he did stress that the UVSS will look at other options.

Downsizing SUB staff may also be considered. According to the audit statements, made public at the UVSS's annual general meeting last week, wages are the second largest drain on the society's revenue and accounted for 68 per cent of SUB expenses last fiscal year.

Gifford said that the UVSS is looking at restructuring personnel, which may involve changing job descriptions. He added that SUB business managers have been asked to think of productive ways to contribute, but said that no decisions had been made yet.

Gibson hopes it won't come to that.

"I'm hoping we don't lose any staff, but I can't be a crystal ball," Gibson said. "It is my wish that no one's job gets sacrificed."

All shows at Vertigo have also been cancelled. According to the audit, the club ran a $143,400 deficit last fiscal year and Gibson was very clear that its losses are something the society can no longer afford.

For the time being, Gibson said that if Vertigo can be used to help the UVSS he might consider opening it, but said that business in the club will have to be conducted much differently than in the past.

"In its current form Vertigo will not continue," Gibson said. "We owe it to the society to quit spending their money and taking risks."

The total UVSS debt since the late 1980's is now $764,600.

Society fires general manager

by Darren Stewart

The UVSS board fired SUB General Manager Doug Ausman.

The decision was made in a gruelling three-hour in-camera meeting, Tuesday night, and made public Wednesday morning.

"The board of directors made the decision on an evaluation sparked by details in the 2001-2002 audit," said UVSS Chair Jaime Matten.

"The decision by the board in no way implies suspicion of any wrong doing and is simply based on evaluation of [Ausman's] job performance."

Matten refused to comment further.

"It's too early," she said.

She said the board would appoint an interim manager and had not made any further decisions.

Director of Finance Jonas Gifford said the decision was not reached easily.

"All we can say at this point is that he doesn't work here anymore and it's not a decision we're taking lightly."

Ausman was informed of the decision Tuesday.

He's held the postion since March of 1997. Ausman left a long career at the provincial government to take the job as general manager.

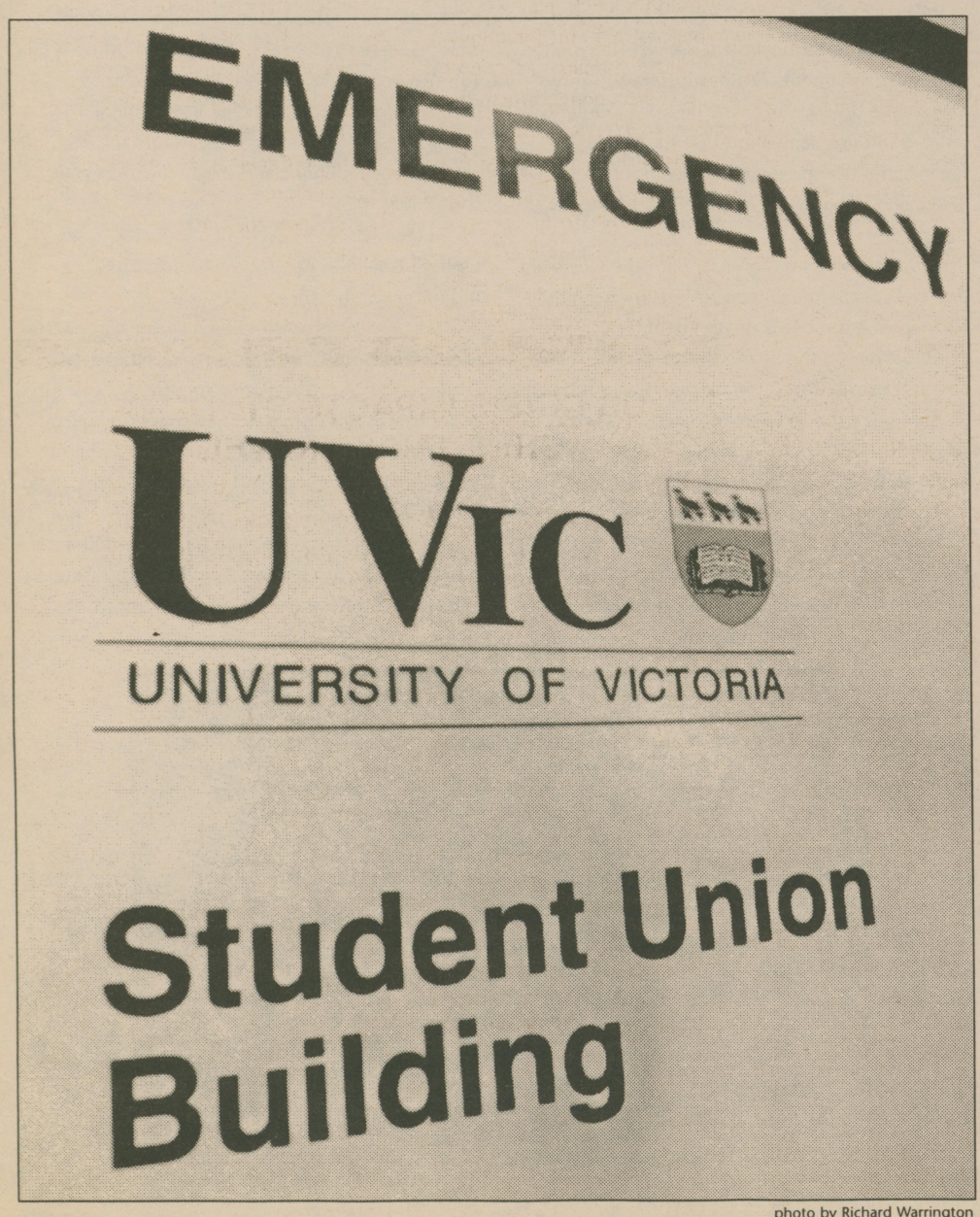

photo by Richard Warrington

Anatomy of a crisis

How did this happen?

Not many of the details have been made public but it's safe to say the cash crisis was essentially a problem of accounting. As a non-profit organization, UVic's Students Society (UVSS) did not have enough checks and balances. The financial structure is built like a triangle. At the top, or point, is the UVSS board of directors. Directly accountable to this board and sitting just beneath the UVSS general manager.

Reporting to the general manager are three division managers: Support/Administration, Business Operations and the Board of Directors. These divisions monitor their own departments, which in turn, are run by department managers. Department managers create the base of the organizational triangle.

Because of the division within its structure, division managers rely on the department managers' reports, forward them to the general manager, who then relays the information to the board.

All budget forecasts and updates the managers report up the pyramid are trusted to be as accurate as possible given the high uncertainty and ever-changing nature of accounting.

Based on their structure, the UVSS's prior Business Operations Division Manager, Vivek Sharma, was directly responsible for the budgets of Felicita's, Vertigo, Cinecenta, Zap, Subtext and Food Services.

Vertigo, Subtext, Food Services and Felicitas posted the biggest differences in their budgets after the routine audit on October 4.

Sharma quit this position in September. He was replaced by current division manager, Jim Gibson.

Jonas Gifford, UVSS Director of Finance, said in an earlier interview that the organization has never felt the need to confirm the numbers reported up from the department managers, through the division managers, to the general manager and finally to the board.

The board relies on the annual routine audit to point out any discrepancies between the manager's budget reports and the actual numbers.

In the past the audit only reported a couple thousand dollar difference in various departments. This is in direct contrast to the $311,400 found to be missing from the last fiscal year.

What is the UVSS doing now?

There are three investigations going on to find out what happened to the missing money. The Saanich police are currently conducting a criminal investigation. There is also a forensic audit investigating the UVSS's flow of funds between managers. Finally, there is an insurance investigation underway. The UVSS holds employee dishonesty insurance (for up to $50,000) but Gifford said there is not yet enough evidence to make a claim.

Gifford said the society may consider changes to personnel but the only decision made public so far is the firing of General Manager, Doug Ausman.

Has the UVSS taken measures to ensure they can avoid this situation in the future?

Besides the investigations, Gifford said that the organization is decentralizing its structure, meaning that the division managers report directly to the board instead of the general manager. Security measures have also been stepped up throughout the SUB. Some of these changes include stricter controls on food and alcohol inventory. The UVSS has also temporarily closed Vertigo nightclub, which showed the most inconsistent numbers.

Has this happened before?

Society members said that over the years the UVSS has faced similar problems on much smaller scales, although they refused to give more details and chalked it up to problems with staff.

Across the country at Montreal's Concordia University, a former student union vice-president of finance was charged with embezzling almost $200,000 from the union over the course of 15 months. This case is considered the largest student union theft in Canadian history (see story and timeline on page seven for more details).

How does this effect UVic students?

Gifford said the only tangible effect on UVic students is the temporary closure of Vertigo, though he admits further changes to services in the SUB may be pending. He also admitted that the money not accounted for is essentially students' money. While student fees aren't targetted in the budget, they account for $500,000 of the annual operating budget of $8.5 million.

Victoria citizens respond to letter supporting Thobani

by Elissa Bergman

Some Victoria citizens condemned a letter supporting Sunera Thobani that the UVic Women's Studies department sent the Times Colonist earlier this month.

After its publication, the department received many negative responses for supporting the UBC women's studies prof, who was recently accused of hate crimes after she criticized US foreign policy.

Helen Rezanowich, program assistant for the department, said that the responses suggest an anti-feminist backlash.

"I don't think Thobani said anything not already said by other Canadians and Americans," Rezanowich said.

But Simon Twist, who submitted one reply to the daily newspaper, said he felt nothing but contempt for Thobani and the UVic supporters.

"I have no time for Thobani at all," Twist said. "I think she is an emotional, self-centered creature who has never had a thought of her own in her life. I don't believe the university should pretend to agree with that."

Twist added that the UVic supporters were trying to push their views like a political party instead of pushing critical, open and analytical thought.

"Any university who does that is not worth any credit," Twist said.

Jo-Anne Lee, who signed the letter, said the department sent it because they felt they had to speak out.

"As sociologists that is what we're supposed to do and we are supposed to be able to do that freely," Lee said.

Lee added that Thobani's speech was taken out of context by the biased coverage of the corporate media.

"The context was to speak out against violence and stand in solidarity with the women of Afghanistan," Lee said.

But other respondents felt that the letter made racial and gender specific comments in defense of Thobani.

"When I saw the letter, I felt the message being delivered was that people opposed to Thobani's views were motivated by racism and anti-feminist views," said Britt Newell. "If it were a white male making the statements Thobani made, I would have disagreed as well."

Newell added that the letter showed that UVic's women's studies department was not challenging students to think.

"My experience in university is that professors challenge students to think, view all angles and look at all aspects," Newell said. "The letter they wrote was definitely one-sided and there is no proof by the letter that the professors are pushing students to look at all angles."

Chantell Foss, a part-time sessional instructor in UVic's women's studies department said that no one realizes that Thobani's analysis rests on years of academic research.

"For the people saying she is a hate-monger, they are completely ignoring her academic research," Foss said. "She has always been well-respected, and I find it interesting her opinions are being taken out of context now."

Foss added that she took a course with Thobani as a grad student at Simon Fraser in 1997.

"I can say from that one course that what she said in her current speech and to the public has been consistent with what her theories have been in class."

History department reaffirms commitment to academic freedom

by John Thompson

Earlier this month the UVic History Department passed two motions reaffirming their commitment to academic freedom.

The motions were prompted by the backlash against UBC professor Sunera Thobani who made headlines recently for criticizing foreign policy.

Eric Sager, chair of the Department of History, said the motions were prompted by pressure outside the university community. He referred to Charles Huntzinger, CEO of Imperial Parking, who wrote to the *Vancouver Sun* calling for a boycott of UBC until Thobani was fired.

"I urge Canadians to let UBC know they will not receive grants or contributions while Ms. Thobani continues to be an employee," Huntzinger wrote.

Sager said the threat of boycotting UBC was sufficient reason for UVic's history department to respond. He expressed concern with how some media sources had quoted Thobani's remarks outside of their proper context.

"It's important these collective rights of freedom of speech be preserved," he said.

Sager added that it was inconsistent to respect freedom of speech and at the same time to reserve the right for reprisal against those who exercise freedom of speech.

The first motion expressed support for UBC President Martha Piper, who said in a recent statement that "academic freedom must be accompanied by academic responsibility," but that academics should be the judge of what is, and what is not, academically responsible, rather than journalists or politicians.

"Peer review is the best system we know of to ensure that a scholar's work is evaluated by the dispassionate judgment and knowledge of experts, rather than by the court of public opinion or political policy," Piper said.

The second motion dealt with Thobani's comments and expressed support for her right to speak freely, "without being subject to threats of any sort."

Sager said that there was lengthy discussion over Thobani's speech, and was careful to add that not everyone in the department shared Thobani's sentiments.

"There's no general approval of what she said, but her remarks were entirely within the domain of academic discourse," Sager said.

Both motions passed with no negative votes.

WTO protest caravan starts in Victoria

photo by Graham Winterbottom

by Brodie Waddell

The Common Front on the World Trade Organization (CFWTO) kicked off its cross-country 'caravan of resistance' with an evening of speakers and speeches at UVic's David Lamb Auditorium.

Speakers said that globalization had become an even more relevant topic in the tumultuous weeks since September 11.

"We have a profound need for more global security right now, and we're not going to get that through the WTO," said student organizer Erin George. "The WTO breeds only insecurity."

The other three speakers – including two representatives from the third world – discussed connections between trade liberalization and the violent instability now on many people's minds. To the CFWTO, international regulatory bodies like the WTO pursue policies that ignore many important facets of global security.

According to Tony Clarke, Director of the Polaris Institute, a 'fair trade system' is needed if security for ordinary people is desired. He said that the world's elites are neglecting things like food security, job security, housing security and other common economic safeguards in favour of purely military security.

"The situation in our country has worsened [since the arrival of the WTO]," said Dharankumar Seeraj of the Guyana Rice Producers Association.

Seeraj added that to the poor farmers who form the backbone of his group, the WTO has meant huge economic and social upheaval. Small growers are being pushed off the land by modern farming methods and they lack the education that would provide them with alternatives. Seeraj said that this arrangement lead to untold suffering and political instability. An Afro-Columbian woman, who, fearing repercussions, would only give her first name, agreed that globalization had had severe effects on South American nations.

"We know what it is like to be victims of terror," she said. "We experience it first hand."

As a spokesperson for the National Coordination Team for the Progress of the Black Communities of Columbia she was able to recount the frightening effects that attacks by right-wing paramilitaries, reputedly funded by foreign dollars, have had on her friends and neighbors.

"Entire populations of rural Columbians, especially Black and Indigenous families, have been displaced or simply wiped out in the name of land privatization," she said.

The evening organized by the Victoria chapter of the Council of Canadians also included a short video reporting on some of the anti-WTO events in other places around that world, and a few minutes of audience questions after the speakers had finished. The meeting was followed, on October 19, with a festive noontime send-off for the Caravan at Mile Zero to wish them success on their trek across Canada. They are scheduled to arrive in Ottawa on Nov. 9 in order to protest the WTO's meeting in Qatar.

It had been hoped that a Ecuadorian activist would also be able to speak at the forum, but, when he arrived at the airport, he was denied access to leave the country by the local military police.

Activists flood Toronto's Bay Street

by Michael Woods

TORONTO (CUP) -- Thousands of anti-poverty demonstrators marched through Toronto's financial district last week, protesting the policies of Ontario's Mike Harris Conservatives.

The march was the first in a series of economic disruptions planned for this fall by the Ontario Common Front (OCF), a province-wide alliance of anti-poverty activists, labour activists, and students.

The OCF was formed to build a strong and militant resistance movement against Harris and his Tory government. The group says the Tories have made the lives of many people in Ontario difficult through legislation that has revoked tenants' rights and workers' protections, privatizing public services and dismantling health care.

Todd Gordon, an organizer with the OCF, said the focus of the march was to "relaunch a fight-back against the Harris government."

Employees in the financial district were angered by the disruption of their daily routines.

An incensed businessman yelled, "It doesn't affect me at all. There's a bunch of fucking idiots in the street!"

The event began at 5 a.m. Approximately 2,000 protestors gathered at Nathan Philips Square and proceeded down Bay, Adelaide, Wellington and King Streets before marching up University Avenue and ending near Queen's Park.

Throughout the march, there was a constant police presence.

Constable Debbie Abbott said police were present to protect citizens, even the demonstrators, but said unruly protesters would be dealt with.

"We support law-abiding protesters but as soon as any criminal action occurs, we have to take action, including protecting property and life," Abbott said.

Arrests on mischief, obstruction of police and possession of prohibited or restricted weapons charges were made, said Sergeant Jim Muscat of Toronto Police. He added that a number of people were injured and taken to hospital.

Shortly after the march began, organizers announced the financial district was successfully shut down.

"Today was by all accounts a success," said Ontario Coalition Against Poverty (OCAP) organizer Sarah Vance.

York student protester Steve Dylag agreed. He said the protest "was relatively peaceful despite random acts of property destruction" by a group of protestors who dragged newspaper boxes off the sidewalks to block traffic at intersections.

"All in all, I think we got our point across," said Dylag.

During the demonstration, Harris announced his resignation at Queen's Park. Many protesters rejoiced as word of the resignation spread.

photo by Eileen Murphy/imc-ottawa

Freedom of expression was alive and well during the march.

An empowering experience

Sunera Thobani talks

by Ai Lin Choo

VANCOUVER (CUP) – Sitting in her office, surrounded by stacks of books and papers, Sunera Thobani looks like any other professor.

As she sits across from me, crosses her legs and asks how the traffic was on my way over, I can't help but wonder if this is the same woman who has been labelled "hysterical" and a "nutcase" in the past three weeks.

Cheerful and composed, Thobani hardly looks like someone who has been – and still is – the target of physical threats. And instead of appearing outraged or discouraged, as I very much expected her to be, Thobani is incredibly calm and says she's more motivated now than she's ever been.

"I would actually call it an experience that has really strengthened me in my views and in my politics. It has just reinforced for me the importance of rejecting responses which are really designed to uphold the status quo," said the women's studies professor.

Even though she admits that she was taken aback by the amount of attention generated by her speech, she says that she has not taken any of the attacks personally. She said that in a way she wasn't surprised at the concern generated towards her speech, as she thinks the resulting media frenzy was used as a forum to discuss Canada's role in the war. She believes that this is one of the main reasons stories are still being published about her.

"People might oppose the war for a whole number of reasons and I think there needs to be a climate in which people can actually voice their concerns and be treated intelligently. So, if anything, this has really just taught me the critical need for public debate, for public forums, because there's a lot of anxiety they feel about this as well. And on top of that, if they feel they can't speak or they're going to be villified if they speak, I think it just feeds the anxiety, it just feeds fear in our society."

Thobani came under heavy public criticism after delivering a speech at a Woman's Resistance Conference in Ottawa on October 1.

Speaking out against violent US retaliation in response to the September 11 attacks in New York and Washington, Thobani referred to US foreign policy as "soaked in blood" and said that "there can be no women's emancipation – in fact, no liberation of any kind for women will be successful unless it seeks to transform the fundamental divide between the North and South, between Third World people and those in the West who are now calling themselves American."

Since then, Thobani has been caught in a nation-wide furor that has condemned her speech as "hateful," "disgraceful" and "anti-Western."

"I think, personally, I've been villified, but that really is a strategy that's been used for a very long time by the powers that need to silence people who don't agree with them and who are actually interested in mobilising people to oppose their policies, so I think it's a really old strategy," she said.

Thobani explained that the motivations behind her speech included considerations of what the threats facing women around the world were, adding that she felt that it was an appropriate forum to talk about what the war would mean for women and how it would increase violence against them on a global level.

Before the conference Thobani said she felt sure that the US would resort to military retaliation in response to public outcry and hysteria and that she felt it was important to discuss the issue before the US actually made a decision to attack Afghanistan.

> I think there needs to be a climate in which people can actually voice their concerns and be treated intelligently.
>
> *Sunera Thobani*

"So if we want to talk about timing, what would be the right timing? After Afghanistan has been destroyed? After everybody in Afghanistan has been killed? Would that have been the appropriate time? I think the appropriate time was then, to debate this, to discuss Canada's role before any bombing started."

On a personal level Thobani says that the amount of hate mail and threats she's received so far has definitely affected her. This is something she's never experienced before in her life, she said, and expressed shock over how explicit some of the threats have been.

"I've had threats as direct as people saying 'we know where u[sic] live, we know where u go, we know where u go to eat, we're going to get u.' It's been as direct as that. Other people say that 'we wish you'd go to Afghanistan and be beheaded' and 'I hope that in your next lifetime you're born as a woman in Afghanistan and I hope your next lifetime comes really soon,'" she said.

Thobani seems incredibly calm and composed for someone whose life has been placed at stake and even smiles while explaining the content of some of the mail she's received.

"I think by now I probably know every single word there is in the English language for women's bodily parts, so that's the kind of hate mail I have been receiving."

But when asked about the hate crime complaint that has been filed against her by a member of the B.C. public Thobani tenses up as anger fills her voice.

"Well, I think it's baseless. I think it has no merit and I think lots of people, legal experts, have said that this is a baseless complaint, but I don't know if that will be enough for the complaint to be dropped against me."

Thobani then carries on to explain her frustration with the RCMP. She is still obviously angry that the complaint was made public and said that even though the RCMP reasoned that the complaint was made public out of concern for her safety, Thobani insists that she had never asked for their protection and should have therefore been consulted.

RCMP Corporal Michael Labossierre, the RCMP's designate on the B.C. hate crime unit, informed two *Vancouver Sun* reporters about the hate crime complaint last week. Labossierre said that his decision to make the complaint public was to show that majority groups can also be targets of hate, thereby disputing the usually held belief that hate is promoted against visible minorities. The next day, Labossierre released a public apology and called his comment "causal" and "unguarded."

But Thobani emphasised that despite the negative reactions that have arisen she does not want to downplay the amount of support that has been offered to her. She said that not only has her immediate family been great, but she also acknowledged the tremendous support she's been receiving from faculty members, students and members of the general public as well.

"A lot of people are very concerned with what this means for us and a lot of people feel like they have no role in being able to influence the public debate about Canada's role in this war. The support that I'm receiving shows to me how critical the need is and how urgently people feel that they want to talk about this," she said.

Books, articles and small gifts are just some examples of the ways people have been showing their support, says Thobani. She also said that she felt it was important to mention that many members of the public who don't agree with some parts of her analysis, but want to have intelligent discussions about the war, have also offered their support.

Thobani, however, admits that this has been an extremely stressful period of time for her family and glances at a framed picture of her 16-year old daughter while explaining that her immediate family has, nonetheless, never faltered in their support of her.

"I mean it's been a real learning lesson for her [Thobani's daughter] to find out how women of colour are seen and treated in this country. It's been a real learning lesson for a lot of her friends as well because it's sparked such a racism and sexism in some sectors of the media and I think that for these young kids, for teenagers of today, it's really showing them what kind of society they actually live in and what the risks are for speaking out."

Similarly, Thobani says that her women's studies students have been asking the same questions and said that, "they're searching for those voices which are sometimes allowed to break through this otherwise male-dominated discussion about really important politics that women are not supposed to concern themselves with."

While Thobani initially requested that security be present during her class to ensure the safety of her students, she said that she didn't think safety was a concern any longer. So far, no students of hers have reported claims of harrassment.

Both UBC students and faculty have shown tremendous support for Thobani over the past three weeks and in an interview conducted on October 4, Tineke Hellwig, chair of the women's studies program, said that the department fully supported the professor.

UBC students have also organised a website in support of her and in a joint effort with the Canadian Federation of Students sporting about a hundred names in solidarity.

"I think it [the experience] has really taught me the importance of continuing to speak out and the importance of feminists carrying on and doing the work that they have been doing in the women's movement for a long time. If anything, this has shown me how critical the need is for feminists across the country to keep doing the work they do and to try and create space for an intelligent discussion of many of the critical issues we face in the world today," Thobani said.

Ubyssey file photo by Nic Fenson

She added that while some have questioned the strength in the language she used in her speech, she feels the words chosen were carefully and deliberately picked. She criticised the way people were taught to use neutral language when dicussing foreign policy.

She gave the example of the phrase "collateral damage" and pointed out that when people die, the damage done is much deeper.

"These are actual human beings who get bombed and who bleed when they die...and I think for us, who are being made complicit in these politics, we should really have a good sense of what these policies look like from the ground, and I think it forces us to recognise the human costs of policies like this. So I think that the language I used is extremely important to me, I mean I don't use these words lightly, I choose them very carefully and I think that we really need to be aware of the profound human costs of these policies," she said.

Thobani also asserted that it was an "unjustifiable" distortion to run a couple of sentences, completely out of context, repeatedly in the news and called for a greater amount of democracy in our media.

She said she felt that more visibility had to be given to the numerous vigils, rallies and protests that were being held across Canada to capture dissenting voices in the country. Adding that with the increasing number of people being killed in Afghanistan, she is certain that anti-war sentiments are going to get stronger.

"The media must hold opposing views and we don't have that in Canada. If anything, this experience has taught me how seriously the media controls all the places of public expression and debate and how vicious it can get," she said.

"The thing that has made me stop and think is the extent to which people in this country feel silenced by the way the media has been treating this issue. I mean, I didn't realize that people felt just so marginalised by this and you know, these are mainstream people, people who have been phoning me. They're not people of colour, they're also men."

When asked if she would do it all over again, Thobani instantly replied "absolutely," and explained that, all in all, this has been an "empowering" experience for her.

"I feel I have nothing to hide. My speech is out there for everybody in the world to look at – it's readily available – and I would say the same things again tomorrow because I have nothing to hide," she said.

"I think it's just really critical for more of us to stand up and oppose this war and say that it shouldn't happen; not in our name."

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Funding cuts force students to change travel plans

by Kevin Groves

Students hoping to have their travel costs covered will have to find another way after university leaders said they could not donate to the Travel Pool program this year.

The UVic Course Union Council (CUC) will only be able to give out $5000 to Travel Pool this year as opposed to $8500 last year.

Government cuts to youth programs like the Public Sector Youth Employment Program (PSYE) are believed to be the cause.

"It's disappointing," said Sarah Webb, UVSS Director of Academics who sits on the CUC. "But we didn't receive any other donations this year."

The pool gives money out to course unions for student travel expenses while attending academic conferences.

With 118 requests for financial aid the CUC spent half their money this semester and saved the other half for the spring. Each request went away with only seven per cent of its expenses covered.

David Clode, Executive Director of Student and Ancillary Services (STAS) said his department has very little money to give away these days and course unions should not have counted on another grant from the university.

"If I had lots of latitude I might have been persuaded to [donate] again," Clode said. "However, circumstances change."

Last August UVic had been due to receive $147,500 in PSYE funding for non-work study positions, but after the government cut was made the university had to fill the void with their own funds.

"In short, it has been a year which has drained resources in a very rapid fashion, and I could not give over the last of my resources with half a year still to run," Clode said.

Clode added that many student groups and individuals in the last two months had also come forward for grants that could not be considered under the UVSS.

"Some of these were quite worthy requests, and I supported them," he said.

Even if the university was in a position to enhance student services Clode said that the demand for help from those in the front line of service delivery is so great that he would be "hard pressed" to put Travel Pool in the top ten list of things to fix first.

"I see nothing on the horizon that will cause that sad circumstance to improve," Clode said. "But hope springs eternal."

Through referenda set funding, course unions have about $25,000 each year, of which 20 per cent is allocated for Travel Pool.

Last year Webb's predecessor Kari Worton was able to secure $3,500 from STAS to bolster the Travel Pool program.

"It was a first time trial, and the idea was to consolidate grant funds from UVic student affairs," Clode said. "It worked all right but not brilliantly."

Course unions interviewed said they were counting on the donation this year and have since had to make changes to their travel plans.

Amber Holden, President of the Nursing Student Society (NSS), said that members of her society had fundraised in order to attend several conferences this year. The union expected Travel Pool would allow them to send more people.

Calling the news "severely disheartening," Holden said that with the significant decrease of financial support only a portion of those student nurses will now be able to attend conferences.

To ensure that there is more money for Travel Pool next year, Webb said she plans to hold a meeting with Clode to discuss STAS's commitment to Travel Pool donations in the future.

"We need to solidify donations for next year so that this doesn't happen again," Webb said.

Hallowe'en fails to mask sexual assault on campus

by Adeline Huynh

If past trends continue Halloween could prove to be a busy time for the Open UVic Resource Sexual Assault Centre (OURSAC).

According to OURSAC coordinator Tammi Jeppesen the centre hears from a lot of people right after Halloween and stressful times like Christmas. Jeppesen attributes this trend to stress and not necessarily to increased assaults during these particular times of the year.

"This doesn't mean that's when the assault occurred, but that's when people feel like they have to talk about it," said Jeppesen. "I think stress just might bring up past issues."

Jeppesen can see why people might believe that more assaults occur during Halloween but she cautions that sexual assaults can occur at any time, not just one night when people in disguises are roaming the streets.

"Halloween is a time when a person can be in disguise, but stranger rape is not the most common [type of sexualized assault]," said Jeppesen. "A lot of people have the fear of the stranger rape on the chip trails. Although that does happen it is not the majority. Most of the time the perpetrator is someone you know. It is usually in the home, whether that be residence or an apartment off campus."

> A lot of people have the fear of the stranger rape on the chip trails. Although that does happen it is not the majority. Most of the time the perpetrator is someone you know.
>
> *Tammi Jeppesen*

Allison Eddy, the Personal Safety Coordinator for Campus Security, agrees that the problem areas on campus are residence and the SUB, where there is a constant flow of people at all times.

Eddy said that Halloween is not a particularly bad time for Campus Security. Besides complaints about fire crackers, reports of violence don't increase during this time. Instead, September and April are when the majority of common assaults (which includes sexual assaults) are reported to Campus Security. There is also a trend for students in their first year at University who are living on their own for the first time to be involved, and for many of the cases alcohol seems to be the common denominator.

Alcohol and sexual assault are clearly important issues for Housing Services on Campus. According to Residence Life Coordinator Liisa Gibson, their number one priority during orientation week is getting out information about sexualized violence to new students.

"Week one we work on the sexual assault issues which is our number one priority. But tied into it clearly is alcohol," said Gibson.

Jeppesen said she's wary about equating alcohol with sexual assaults.

"[Alcohol] does not cause sexual assaults but I think it is involved in a lot of sexual assault cases."

Gibson admits that there are parties involving the consumption of alcohol every weekend. But whenever these are organized events such as the up-coming Halloween dance, Housing Services takes extra precautions.

Gibson said that they hire staff to supervise dances and try to offer alcohol free events as an alternative to weekend alcohol binges. New this year is the formation of a three-member team of Resident Advisors called the Sexual Assault Prevention Team, who will walk around residence reminding students, particularly female students, to limit their alcohol consumption and to watch out for friends in trouble.

Leanne Rosen, a first year student living in residence, admits that small alcohol-fueled skirmishes break out almost every weekend. She has also witnessed one larger fight and has been warned about the possibility of sexual assault on campus. Despite this, Rosen feels safe on campus and in residence.

"I shouldn't but I do feel safe," said Rosen "I even walk across campus alone in the dark."

Engineers push bug for United Way

by James Storrie

The UVic Engineering Students Society (ESS) was out in full force earlier this month to raise money for the United Way.

For 24 hours, volunteers poured out of their homes to reach a goal: to keep a Beetle, donated by Malahat Auto, rolling around the UVic ring. Despite both rain and traffic their mission was a success.

When it was over the United Way came out over $2000 richer. UVic students donated $1400 in cash, while the rest came from Thrifty's, Malahat Auto and Speedway Motors.

"It was lots of fun," said Paul Guyot, a first-year engineer. "I was really sore afterwards though."

Rick Gustafson, another first year engineer, agreed.

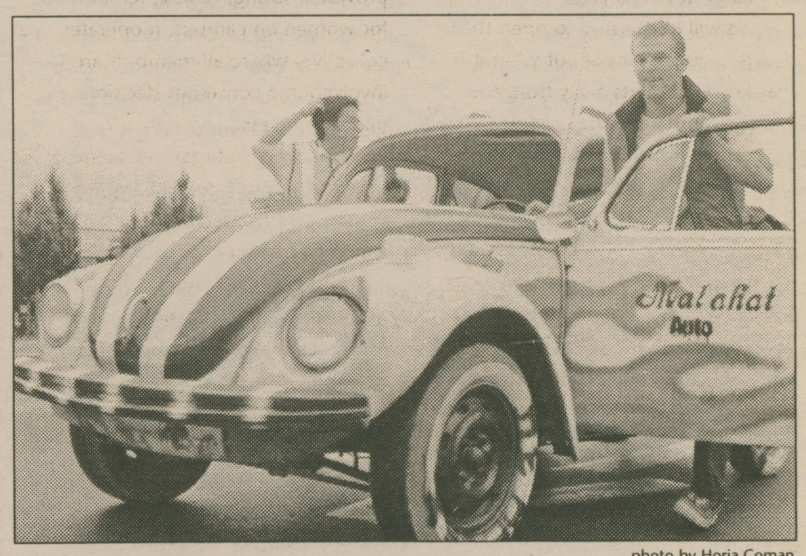

photo by Horia Coman

"Definitely lots of fun," Gustafson said. "At times we ran short on people though. A lot of us had to run repeats to keep the bug going."

During the push the ESS executive was supported by 125 volunteers, most of them first-year engineers. A foosball table and free pizza also made an appearance, which helped attract more bug-pushers.

"We had people who came out and didn't want to push the bug, just play foos, but we got them into it too," said Beau Nychka, ESS Director of Events.

Last call from Felicita's also proved to be a boon.

"We had a big crowd that came out when all the bars closed who wanted to help out, and we were able to keep them pretty tame," Beau said.

More events like the Bug Push are not far off for the ESS. The next big fundraiser will be the annual Order of Pi, where participants get to order cream-pie 'hits' on targets of their choosing. The Order of Pi will raise funds for the Queen Alexandra Centre for Children's Health.

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Concordia Student union member charged in year-old fraud case

By Steve Faguy

MONTREAL (CUP) – Former Concordia Student Union vice-president of finance, Sheryll Navidad, has been charged with embezzling $193,062 from the union, a full year after the money was discovered missing.

"There's been one charge of fraud," said Luc Belhumeur, a spokesperson for the Montreal Urban Community Police Department.

Belhumeur said charges for 52 unauthorized cheques, which were uncovered on Oct. 4 of last year, have been combined into one charge for the entire amount.

"I feel it's about time," said current vice-president of finance Patrice Blais who took over financial control of the union after the fraudulent cheques were discovered.

Blais said the Crown prosecutor had authorized laying charges against Navidad for the largest theft ever from the Concordia Student Union (CSU).

"I'm frustrated that it took this long," said former CSU president Rob Green, who unwittingly signed the blank cheques that Navidad later used to commit the fraud.

Green was also concerned about the union getting its money back.

"It may take some time," he said, before the CSU can recuperate the money.

The exact charges against Navidad have not yet been made public but should be forthcoming in the next week.

Should Navidad fail to appear before the court to face the charges against her, a warrant may be issued for her arrest.

Blais said if Navidad were to be found guilty, he will recommend the CSU press civil charges against her to recover the stolen money.

The case is considered the largest student union theft in Canadian history. Most of the money stolen from the union between June 1999 and September 2000 originally came from student fees.

Former Concordia Student Union president Rob Green admitted last year that a faulty administrative structure and his own inexperience allowed the huge fraud to go undetected and unreported for several months.

- with files from Pierre-Olivier Savoie and Rene Biberstein

The Concordia Student Union fraud – a timeline

June 1, 1999
The CSU fiscal year starts. Sheryll Navidad begins her duties as vice-president of finance.

June 28, 1999
Navidad writes the first unauthorized cheque to herself, to the order of $1,400. The cheque reads "outstanding balance for car rental."

September 29, 1999
Navidad issues two cheques to herself for $10,000 each, allegedly related to the CSU's annual used booksale. The auditor's report cannot connect these cheques to the fraud and their amount is not part of the $193,061 total.

October 27, 1999
CSU vice-president of internal affairs Peter Taylor sends a memo to president Rob Green and Navidad concerning a potential fraud in the booksale. The missing contracts account for an estimated $13,000 of missing funds. He writes: "It seems rather obvious that a fraud of significant import has occurred." To this day it is unknown whether the booksale fraud is related to the larger fraud.

August, 2000
Bookkeeper Ahmad Mahboub discovers a deficit of almost $200,000. He informs the president. The CSU executive dismisses the possibility of fraud.

September 5, 2000
Green asks the union's lawyer to help the CSU set up a position of corporate controller to help keep track of financial irregularities. Green sets up a series of meetings with the bookkeeper, general manager and executive, including the VP finance.

September 11, 2000
The last fraudulent cheque is cashed for $7,200. This is the largest of the 52 fraudulent cheques.

October 4, 2000
The bookkeeper intercepts the bank receipts for August 2000, which include five hand-written cheques totaling $26,406 payable to Navidad. All five cheques are later found to be fraudulent in the audit.

October 5, 2000
Green and the executive suspend Navidad. The CSU hires a forensic auditor which meets with the executive, minus Navidad.

October 6, 2000
Scotiabank, where the CSU has its accounts, receives a summary warning from the CSU. The bank officer calls the bookkeeper to clear the cheques. A cheque payable to Navidad for $5,500 is stopped.

October 11, 2000
The CSU Council of Representatives is informed of the fraud during a closed-session meeting. The council changes signing authority from Green and Navidad to the general manager and council chair. The council authorizes the CSU to release the evidence to the police.

October 12, 2000
The university is informed of the fraud.

October 13, 2000
Scotiabank is officially informed of the fraud.

October 17, 2000
The CSU issues a press release revealing that $196,000 has been embezzled from the union.

October 18, 2000
Faucher, the forensic auditor, meets with Montreal police's fraud division and files a formal complaint against Navidad.

October 19, 2000
The union implements an administrative overhaul at a council meeting. Additional financial controls are added.

November 27, 2000
The audit report is submitted to CSU Council Chairperson Patrice Blais.

Feminism is not an f-word anymore

by Emily Shorthouse

Eliza Walter wants to make UVic's Women's Centre more accessible to all students this year.

The new coordinator of the centre began her position earlier this month and is concerned most students on campus are intimidated by it. She plans to change that this year.

"We will be starting to open the doors to discussions about what it is that keeps students away from the centre. Also [the centre] will be looking at what it is about our image that makes the space not accessible for all women to use and to discover what feminism means for them, as an individual. Because it is different for everybody."

Annalee Lepp, a Women's Studies professor at UVic, said she has noticed a shying away from her younger students from labelling themselves as feminists.

"Some [women] fear feminism because they don't know what it is about. They think of it as the "f"-word. People have an idea what a feminist is, what she looks like that is based on stereotypes."

Lepp also said that North American culture benefits the individual, a belief that is in direct opposition to the collective mandate of feminism. Because some younger women now look for personal fulfillment they are less likely to get involved with organizations like the centre, said Lepp.

The centre has a mandate to provide a strong, radical, feminist voice for women on campus. It operates as a collective, where all members are involved in a consensus decision making process.

The collective organizes events at UVic relating to October's Women's History Month, December 6 National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women, International Women's Day and Eating Disorders Awareness Week.

Despite the female population making up close to 60 per cent of UVic's student body for the fall-winter 2000-01 semesters, the centre said having a majority of women on campus does not mean female students will feel comfortable coming into the centre.

"People are like, wow, we have a lot of equality here, but that's not true. Just because we have a jump in numbers doesn't mean we have a jump in behavior," said Meghan Jezewski, a collective member at the centre.

To help take away the fear a lot of young women have of being identified as a feminist, both Walter and Jezewski said there is a need to demystify the term feminism.

"Radical feminism of the 1970's and early 1980's was especially all exclusive. [There] were a lot of problems with it being upper middle class, white, educated women who were at the forefront of developing feminist theory and practice, while it excluded women of colour and class," said Jezewski.

Today feminists are trying to be more inclusive of race, gender and class differences among women, she said. Established to act as a drop-in centre, referral service and library, the centre was formed in 1981 and evolved out of the Women's Action Group (W.A.G.)

The Centre offers a safe space for all female students to relax, study or hang out. Only the research library is open to both female and male students.

A letter found in the Women's Centre archives written in 1980 by Alice S. Albert (former coordinator and president of W.A.G.) shows that women's groups at UVic have had difficulty in the past finding solidarity on campus.

The letter noted one problem was "'getting to the masses,' particularly women students.'"

Albert also noted that an outreach program might be useful. There's currently no outreach program at the centre but plans are in the works, specifically in residence.

Walter said part of the difficulty in reaching more students today comes from a need to include more people in the process.

"A lot of responsibility ends up falling on a few people, often on women and activists. It shouldn't have to be a few peoples issue to deal with."

The centre retreat, taking place in late November, will address other issues such as ways to make the centre more accessible to women of colour, international students and how to be involved in anti-racist work on campus.

For Women's History Month the centre is having a free video screening on October 30. Four films will be shown with topics ranging from this country's First Nations' womens resistance to cultural assimilation, the history of Chinese Canadian women and an in-depth look at the witch-hunts in Europe.

Women's history month quotes

The extension of women's rights is the basic principle of all social progress.

Charles Fourier, 1808

Well-behaved women rarely make history

anonymous

We think back through our mothers if we are women.

Virginia Woolf

Not everything that is faced can be changed, but nothing can be changed until it is faced.

James Baldwin

Our task, of course, is to transmute the anger that is affliction into the anger that is determination to bring about change. I think, in fact, that one could give that as a definition of revolution.

Barbara Deming

There is no magic potion ... that gives us wisdom. Only our experience will teach us and then, only if we are truly willing to learn.

Rosemary Altea

However confused the scene of our life appears, however torn we may be who now do face that scene, it can be faced, and we can go on to be whole.

Muriel Rukeyser

You can never go back again, that much is certain.

Daphne Dumaurier

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EDITORIAL

UVSS crisis: what now?

There is one-third of a million dollars of what is essentially students money not accounted for at the Student Union Building.

How could this have happened?

"That is the million dollar question," said UVSS Director of Finance, Jonas Gifford at the recent society AGM.

The budget is split into three divisions and disparate numbers only arose in one (in the other two the board budget and admin/support were actually in the black). That one division was the Business Operations, which accounts for business activity in the SUB and was formerly managed by Vivek Sharma, who quit last month.

Nobody can yet say exactly how this happened and public details are scarce given all the sensitive investigations going on. All we know is that somebody in the chain of account and balance was misrepresenting the numbers by a huge margin. This is, apparently, a common problem for non-profits that rely too heavily on an honour system. Perhaps this system is a target for those less worried about potential karmic (not to mention legal) retribution for stealing an enormous sum from a non-profit society.

The operating budget was only reviewed by an outside auditor once per year. The society will now conduct quarterly audits. Gifford said this will not add any extra cost to the UVSS, which begs the question of why it wasn't implemented before.

Inevitably somebody has to be blamed. Because the society only conducted outside audits once a year, this problem could have been brewing since the previous audit was carried in fall 2000.

UVSS Execs, particularly Gifford and Chair Jaime Matten have been put through the wringer over this and have all the aura of the walking dead these days. Admittedly, *the Martlet* feels sympathetic.

But so far it seems like they're reacting very well.

Their first clamp down was in Vertigo, the nightclub many of us love to believe in (though we're losing hope). Every time Vertigo's doors open it loses the students' society wads of cash and the UVSS recognizes the need to address and reconsider the way it is operated.

Next, as already mentioned, they addressed the financial structure. They will now conduct outside audits quarterly rather than yearly, hopefully avoiding similar situations in the future.

They will also decentralize the accounting process and make division managers report directly to the finance committee rather than to the general manager.

There have also been some personnel changes. Doug Ausman is no longer the SUB General Manager. The board fired him after a very long meeting this week.

Right before the crisis was revealed the board hired Jim Gibson who comes with a resume packed with financial problem-solving experience (he pulled Legends nightclub out of receivership). Gibson promises to go over SUB operations with a magnifying glass, isolate the problems and solve them quickly. He told us this week that he is confident that he will be successful and looking at his track record, we believe him.

The UVSS started the year projecting the largest surplus in society history and was probably the last to expect this mess. Now, under the close scrutiny of 17,000 students' microscopes, they will have to pull themselves out of this debacle quickly and completely.

As investigations continue we will watch. Closely and hopefully.

Academic freedom must not be jeopardized

Are there spies on campus?

A troubling story came out of the University of Toronto this week: Geology professors Anthony Naldrett and John Gittins were the subject of a five-year investigation by our country's own spy agency, the Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS). The Canuck James Bonds were assisted by the profs' secretary, who suspected her superiors of some sort of illegal activity simply because of their contacts with geologists in the former Soviet Union.

Between 1986 and 1990, as the sun set on the 82-year battle between the West and the Red Empire in Russia, professors Naldrett and Gittins had their private mail, telexes, and other documents monitored by the government of Canada.

The secretary, Isabel Laurence, notified the chair of the geology department of her role in the investigation in 1989, who in turn notified the dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, who then notified the President of the University.

None of these administrators told her to stop her spying, which continued for over a year. In late 1990, Laurence confessed to Prof. Naldrett, who is now the president of the Geological Society of America.

CSIS has 2097 agents posted in cities across Canada and around the world, and their annual budget of $190-million was boosted by $10-million last week to fight the new 'war on terrorism.' Their sister agency in the Defense Department, the Communication Security Establishment, was given an extra $47-million and may soon have the power to monitor all domestic communications.

Profs. Naldrett and Gittins were conducting legitimate research, but they made the mistake of cooperating with colleagues in an 'enemy' nation. Does this make them "terrorist suspects?"

This incident raises serious questions about academic freedom.

What role, if any, should the state play in monitoring academic activity. We think none. Academics are subject to extensive peer review, and so they should be. Further surviellance that is political in nature is abhorrent. This is an issue facing various academics in Canada and must be addressed.

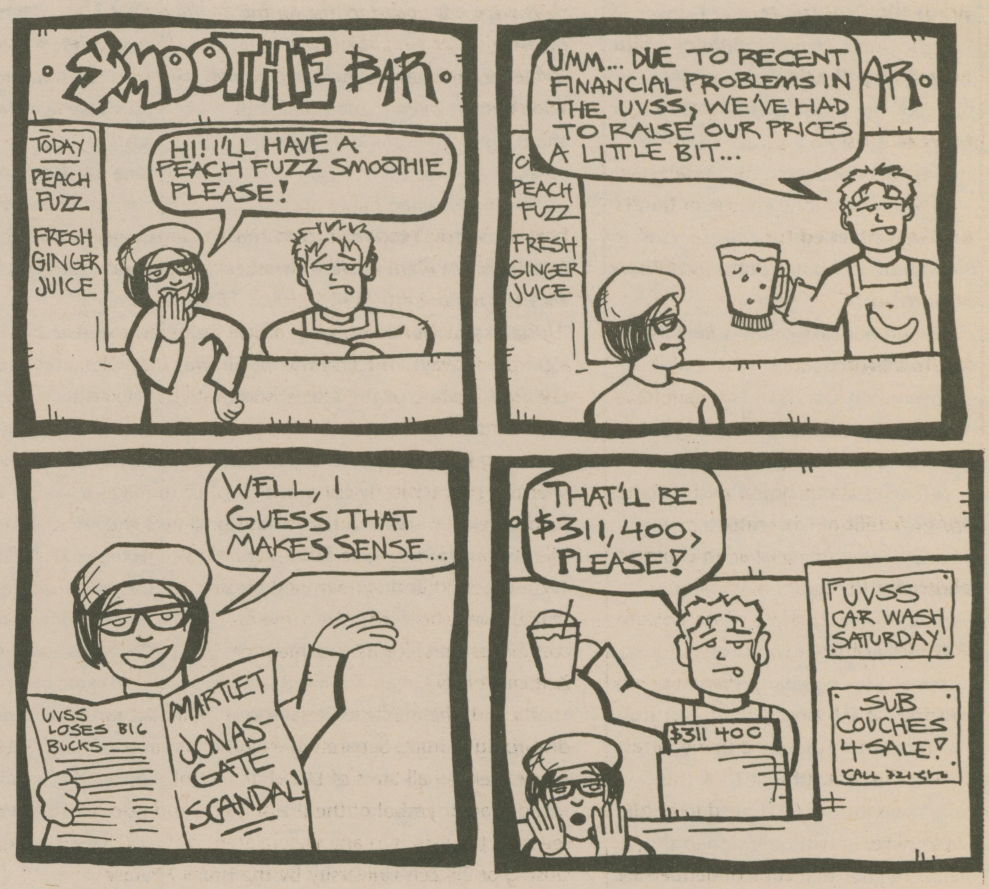
The Martet applauds the history department's decision to support academic freedom, which was prompted by backlash to UBC professor Sunera Thobani's now famous speech. We also applaud the UVic Women's Studies department's stand in solidarity with Thobani.

But solidarity from the university administration and community is also absolutely necessary.

In these zany times when history is happening close at hand it is important for academics to have a strong and free voice arms length from the whims and fears of our political leaders.

Editorial topics are decided on by staff at editorial meetings, every Monday at 12:30 p.m. in SUB b110a. Editorials are written by one or more staff members, and are not necessarily the opinion of all staff members.

Don't like what you read? Write, write, write, gimme gimme gimme: **martlet@uvic.ca**


SMOOTHIE BAR
TODAY
PEACH FUZZ
FRESH GINGER JUICE
HI! I'LL HAVE A PEACH FUZZ SMOOTHIE PLEASE!
UMM... DUE TO RECENT FINANCIAL PROBLEMS IN THE UVSS, WE'VE HAD TO RAISE OUR PRICES A LITTLE BIT...
WELL, I GUESS THAT MAKES SENSE...
UVSS LOSES BIG BUCKS
MARTLET JONAS-GATE SCANDAL!
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MONOLOGUE

Salivation is salvation

by Simon Rolston

Conditioning: a type of learning in which an organism comes to associate one stimulus with another. Bumpitybumpitybump. Also called Pavlovian conditioning. Salivation is salvation. I am the result of cultural conditioning. I respond to the bell-ringing of my consumer culture with excessive salivation. I like the big house in Architectural Digest with the massive renaissance carpets, the Avery Boardman sofas, the settee from Sotheby's, the Tiffany's china, and the luxurious Jaguar in the drive. I like the diamond flashiness of hip-hop, the food in Gourmet Magazine, the bathrooms in the Empress Hotel (with the warm towels), the feel of fine clothing, the look of great breasts. I like my pornography cheap and my cigars fancy. I like my cheese opinionated, my coffee black as revenge, my stereo loud and I want the price tag affordable. In the words of Freddie Mercury: "I want it all."

But there is a problem.

Occasionally I realize the folly of this excessive consumer need. I know that there are problems behind the high walls of Me. I know that every action has an equal and opposite reaction. I know that a lifestyle of "wants" comes with consequences: the decimation of the Rain forest, third-world poverty, sweatshops, extinction, pollution, the degradation and possible destruction of life as we know it. I also know that my constant quest for more is due to product placement, increased brand visibility, mergers and acquisitions, celebrity endorsements and mindfuck corporate control based on a Big-Brother understanding of an all-important human need: conditioning. I am a guinea pig, a bitch of image, a product. I know that there are others like me. Really, let's face it. We're all bitches of image. Even the granola chewing, alfalfa sprout touting, pot smoking, dreadlocked, bike riding culture-jammer is still conforming to image.

But I digress.

Here's the thing. I don't want to cut down the Carmanah so I can wipe my ass. I don't want to make some eight-year-old work in unsanitary conditions for over ten hours a day so I can dress like cool slick. I don't want bombs to land on people so I can live in a "free" society. I especially don't want to pay taxes to the government so that they can create policies and trade rules that make the rich richer and the rest of us drones. I don't like the taste of soma but I keep drinking; I realize they're fake but I keep fucking; I know it'll kill me but I keep smoking; I know I'm a sucker and a hypocrite but I know I'm not alone.

Anyway.

The way we are is largely a result of repeated conditioning. Does the name Pavlov ring a bell? From birth, we have been following the example of our parents and our culture. That's the way it is. In order to survive, one must learn how to adapt to one's surroundings. The problem, however, is that it's no longer our parents that are doing the teaching. Their role in our society has been subverted by their own conditioning. They were told to buy to support the economy. Purchase patriotism. Now, it's those purchases that are forming our ideas, our identities, and our culture. I'm beginning to feel as though I'm supposed to make some wise, conscious decisions about my role as a consumer. But I'm confused. I want that car; but I also want to make the world a better place.

Simon Rolston is new at the Martlet and already a key member of the team. We would have nabbed him earlier but he was out there, damn busy fighting crime and all.

Want to have your opinion and eat it too?

Well, submit to *the Martlet* your first, second, and third person rants, raves, and lectures! These fun and furry editorial pieces come in three forms:

Monologue – a longer piece, a sort of personal essay, usually first person
Student Voice – longer than a letter, shorter than a monologue
Soapbox – short and snappy rant on some pet peeve or timely issue, written by a *Martlet* staff member

[2000/2001]
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LETTERS

Editor's note: The Martlet apologizes for any offense taken by the inclusion of Stars of David in last week's feature story "University at Gunpoint." They were added at the production stage and were not intended to carry anti-Semitic or pro-Palestinian sentiment. The stars were not added by the author of the article. Please also see soapbox (page nine) and student voice (page 19) for further discussion on this issue. Thank you.

Feature sparks response from Jewish community

As a Jewish student at UVic I must take exception with the feature article of October 18 entitled "University at Gunpoint." This article bothered me in a couple of ways. The first was its obvious bias. The one sided nature of the article is indicative of an anti-Israel (and some would argue, anti-Semitic) trend sweeping both campus and non-campus media all over the country in recent months, while human (and especially student) rights abuses all over the Middle East go unnoticed, despite being acknowledged and condemned by Human Rights Watch (www.hrw.org), the same group that condemns Israel for its treatment of students at Bir Zeit University.

Second, the article's formatting contained a rather disturbing feature. Separating each section in the article were small Stars of David, the highly recognizable symbol of the Jewish faith, and I do not see how Judaism is in any way related to the periodic closing of Bir Zeit University by the Israeli Military. Was *the Martlet* trying to imply that I, as a Jew, do not want Palestinians to get an education, or was it just carelessness on the part of the people in charge of formatting the page? Either way I think I should remind the editors of *the Martlet* of the quotas once employed by Canadian universities to keep Jews from getting an education, and other anti-Semitic barriers that Jews in this country (and elsewhere) fought to overcome.

While I understand that the left-wing media is currently enjoying an open season on the United States and its allies for their foreign policies, it is no excuse to become careless and abandon the basic journalistic principle of presenting both sides of a story. That being said, I think *the Martlet* owes the many Jewish students, professors, and staff at UVic an apology.

Adam Peters

Anti-Semitism on campus?

It's one thing to write a terribly biased, slanted and one-sided article attacking Israel. I've seen that in *the Martlet* before. A critique of Israel is not necessarily anti-Semitic; however, *the Martlet* frequently manages to make these criticisms anti-Semitic. Stating "Israel is the root cause of violence in the Middle East" is uninformed at best and at worst anti-Semitic. So what made the article on Bir Zeit anti-Semitic?

You'll love this. Among other things, the separators between paragraphs were little Stars of David, the six-pointed star that is a major Jewish symbol. In an article attacking Israel, you've managed to attack Jews as well.

Making the link between government action and Jewish theology, religion and identity is just one more reason why I have felt less and less comfortable on this campus in the past year. Is anti-Semitism coming back into style? To correlate Judaism with oppression is anti-Semitic. To link Judaism with the actions of the Israeli government is absolutely unacceptable. To be called a fascist, a racist, a warmonger, a butcher, an ethnic cleanser, and wait, a NAZI because I am a Zionist Jew, well, I'm sorry, that's just too much. One can be pro-Israel, and pro-Palestinian. One can be a Zionist and believe in peace, and not be racist.

It's been a nauseating joyride to read *the Martlet* lately. The perpetrators of the September 11 attacks were, according to *the Martlet*, not terrorists. However, Zionism and American foreign policy are. I have been exposed to terrorism, the real kind, first hand; it's that feeling of dread when you don't know if the bus you're on is going to explode or not. It's that sick feeling you get in your stomach when you watch the bus driver run to the back of the bus and toss a package out the window. It's that jaded, tired feeling you get when the cop in the Tel Aviv bus station (a six-story shopping mall with buses) tells you to move quickly because of a suspicious package, and you somehow tell him that it's just some old lady who's forgotten her bags. I laugh now, thinking how much I had changed after nine months in Israel. The first time a pipe bomb exploded in Jerusalem, I had been in Israel for a month and nearly refused to go to the city for fear of my life.

So, I ask, is the general student population of UVic anti-Semitic? Well, the general population is Christian, white and uninformed. The images we see in the news concerning Israel are of white soldiers in uniforms with guns shooting at crowds of ragged dark-skinned children throwing stones. The conclusion is that the Israelis are the bad colonialist oppressors, while the Palestinians are the innocent victims fighting for their freedom. Never mind the fact that there are armed Palestinians behind the crowds, shooting at the Israelis. Never mind that the most popular Palestinian organization in the Gaza Strip and West Bank, Hamas, calls for the Jews to be pushed into the sea. Never mind that after the IDF withdrew from Lebanon under the auspices of the UN, Hizbollah guerrillas disguised as UN peacekeepers managed to kidnap Israeli soldiers. Never mind that most Israelis are secular, live well within the borders of pre-1967 Israel, and can't get on a bus without worrying whether or not it will explode. Nevermind that over 60 per cent of Israeli Jews are not white. Never mind that these same Jews were expelled from their Arab countries in 1948. Never mind the fact that this conflict is far more complicated than anything the general student population of UVic has ever been exposed to in their collective lives. The verdict is in: this is the fault of the Jews. And that is anti-Semitism.

Josh Peters

Symbolism of donation missed by letter-writer

This letter is in response to that of Mr. David Webb ("Donation isn't front-page news," Oct. 18, 2001). Mr. Webb seems to have missed the boat as to why Ms. Kinney's donation (of her $12.25 tax savings to the Liberal Government) should be on the front page of *the Martlet*. This action deserves such prominent coverage because it effectively demonstrates that the Liberal's recent tax cuts do little to benefit low-income individuals, such as students. Mr. Webb calls Kinney's comparison between her tax savings and those of Jimmy Pattison "laughable," since Pattison's savings would be in the "thousands." That's the point – the comparison is laughable because the tax cuts are insignificant for those in lower income brackets.

Two additional points should also be made with reference to Mr. Webb's letter. First, it must be said that since *the Martlet* is, after all, a "student newspaper," one should expect such a publication to give prominence to issues concerning students. Second, the last lines of Mr. Webb's letter clearly indicate that, in his view, our present Liberal government is "competent." His view is irrelevant. However, he seems to be implying that the policies of a "competent" government should not be drawn into question. I would like to caution Mr. Webb that simply the fact that a government appears to be "competent" should not exempt its policies from critical analysis. Especially when the government in question possesses such an overwhelming majority of seats in the legislature.

Greg Fowler

SOAPBOX

History student considers sovereignty

by Ben Isitt

Was Jesus born in Israel? Or Palestine? Or both?

At the root of the conflict in the Middle East are competing claims over a narrow strip of land between the River Jordan and the Mediterranean Sea. In my elementary school in Winnipeg, I studied Hebrew and learned to draw pictures of this contested territory. My classmates and I canvassed for the Jewish National Fund, selling trees that were planted in this land. I had a Bar Mitzvah and made a pilgrimage to the Holy Land several years ago, but I left unsure of where my allegiances lay.

Until 1948, this place was called Palestine, a British mandate where Arabs had lived for centuries. They were joined by four waves of Jewish immigrants from Europe, the descendents of Ancient Hebrews who were driven from the region two millennia before. The first fled the pogroms of Czarist Russia, while the last retreated from the unspeakable horror of the Nazi Holocaust.

Six million Jews had perished in the ovens and gas chambers at Auschwitz and Treblinka after the Western World, Canada included, denied them refuge as Hitler rose to power. The survivors of the camps boarded ships after the war, their fate in limbo, until they settled at the eastern end of the Mediterranean.

In May 1948, Jews in Palestine declared independence from Britain and the State of Israel came into being. The only problem was that hundreds of thousands of non-Jews – Muslims, Bedouin, and Christians – lived on the land. Many were forced onto refugee camps on the fringes of the new Jewish state.

And so out of the ashes of Nazi terror and in the name of the six million who had perished at the hands of the Third Reich, a new era of oppression came into being. Jewish Israelis clung desperately to their piece of land, and fought numerous wars to expand from their 1948 borders. An array of United Nations resolutions failed to check the Zionist project of expanding into Arab lands. In 1967, the eternal city of Jerusalem and the West Bank of the River Jordan – Jesus' birthplace of Bethleham included – were seized and occupied by the Israeli military.

In the late 1980s, Palestinians rose up against the occupation, descending the young nation of Israel into an abyss of terror and violence. With the signing of a peace agreement at Oslo, Norway in 1993, Palestinians were given a measure of self-government in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Talks progressed toward the final status of a Palestinian state, and by summer 2000 the fate of Jerusalem was on the table.

But then on Sept. 28 2000, then opposition leader Ariel Sharon, accompanied by hundreds of heavily armed Israeli soldiers, marched on the Al-Aqsa compound in the heart of Jerusalem's Old City. Muslims retained sovereignty over the space, which contains the third-holiest site in Islam: the Dome of the Rock, where Muhammed is said to have ascended to Heaven.

But like many things in the Holy Land, the Rock is contested, and Jews claim it as their own. It is where they believe Abraham prepared to sacrifice his son Isaac to God and it was there that King David and Solomon built their temples.

So that fateful day in September, Sharon asserted Israeli claims to the Rock and the Palestinians rose again in rebellion. A year later, nearly 1000 are dead and peace seems millennia away. Helicopter gunships and F-16 attack jets regularly pummel Palestinian villages while those who have given up hope blow up Israeli nightclubs and markets.

So where does this leave us today?

To me at least, as a history student of Jewish-Welsh background who identifies with socialism and is drawn toward anarchism, theocracy cannot bring peace in the Middle East. From what I observed, Israel is a liberal democratic society – if you are Jewish. Clerics, supported by roughly 10 per cent of the population, hold special powers over government, while more than half the Jewish population supports the just principle of 'land-for-peace.'

The basic problem is sovereignty: a Jewish State was superimposed on another people's land, in much the same way a European nation called Canada was imposed on the territory of hundreds of diverse indigenous Nations. Justice and self-government for First Nations can never fully be realized within the framework of the colonial project called Canada. And peace between Israeli Jews and Palestinian Muslims cannot be realized within the framework of the State of Israel.

The ideology of Zionism ties Jewish identity to that contested piece of land. But this ideology has inflamed Arab neighbours and fueled fresh flames of anti-Semitism more than any other force in the last half-century.

Jews in both Israel/Palestine and throughout the Diaspora need to join the call for a just peace and support the creation of a pluralist democracy in the region.

The prospect of a second Holocaust is too terrifying to contemplate.

more op/ed on page 19...

Brain food

– *Martlet* reporter Joanna Wong goes to the T'Soo-ke salmon festival, where young and old feast on the nation's traditional food and contemplate the salmon's future.

by Joanna Wong

The star of the T'Soo-ke first nation's 'Return of the Salmon Celebration' bursts enthusiastically from the waters of the Sooke flats, dramatically holding a pose before diving back in. High pitched cries of "I saw one! I saw one!" fill the air as kids crowd to the muddy edge of the bank.

Throughout the tranquil waters of the Sooke river salmon jump and flip spontaneously.

"No one really knows why they do that," says David Lightly, the biologist and fisheries consultant for the T'Soo-ke nation. "I say they do it for fun," he smiles.

Jack Planes, a retired fisherman and elder of the T'Soo-ke first nation, has a different opinion. "I say they do it to see where they're going," Jack says with a laugh.

The "Return of the Salmon Celebration" was put on Saturday, October 12, by the T'Soo-ke nation. It was organized in cooperation with the South Islands Stewardship Society (SIASS). SIASS monitors and supports community-based stewardships (a government buzzword for stream and watershed conservation organizations) for the common purpose of sustaining a healthy fishery and ecosystem.

"The idea of a stewardship is for communities to take care of the streams running through their backyard," says Jim Hamly, a stewardship coordinator.

Out on the water Jack's youngest son Joe and a team of others are preparing to demonstrate the river seine selective fishing technique currently practiced by the T'Soo-ke nation. A growing trail of white buoys floats behind their small metal 'herring skiv' craft as they feed the net into the water.

"We're teaching the younger ones as they grow up to carry on the hunting and fishing rites," says Jack.

Jack, who's been fishing "since he could walk," learned the tricks of the trade from his mother.

"We were taught when we were kids only to take them when there were lots," says Jack.

Gordon Planes, one of Jack's older sons, remembers coming as a boy to the Sooke river to spear fish.

"There used to be so many, it [wasn't] hard at all," says Gordon.

Once a commercial fisherman, Gordon was forced to abandon his profession due to drastic declines in the salmon population and consequent moratoriums. He now works in Long Beach for Parks Canada.

Gordon is but one of many who were affected by the "Coho Crisis" of 1998.

Consecutive weak runs of coho became the catalyst for the implementation of more stringent selective fishing practices. With many native communities located in remote areas and with few employment alternatives the impact on fishing was devastating.

Salmon are not only significant to native communities as sources of food and employment; they also serve as important cultural symbols for social and ceremonial purposes.

Gordon Curry of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) heads the current selective fisheries program. Curry works with everyone from big commercial fishing operations to local native fishermen to recreational sport fishers to create a more selective fishery.

"The biggest hurdle endangering salmon at the moment is the ocean environment," says Curry.

The El Nino phenomenon of the last few years has raised the temperature of the sea water and caused extreme changes in the ocean environment. These changes have disrupted the delicate ecosystem that allows for the upwelling of crucial nutrients. The higher temperature has also made the environment more hospitable to mackrel and other predators, resulting in low returns of salmon from the ocean.

Back on the water Joe and the other fisherpeople have finished deploying their net and are slowly dragging it to shore. As the skiv comes closer to the beach members of the T'Soo-ke nation, clad in well-worn rubber chest waders, pull in the seine net hand over hand.

A seine net makes it relatively easy to select fish for species, sex and hatchery marks. Impact on the weaker stocks can be controlled and physical damage to the fish is minimal, unlike the effects of commercial gill nets.

Made of a knotless web, a seine net ensures salmon do not lose any scales, which are a vital part of their circulatory systems.

Today the T'Soo-ke fisherpeople are havesting chum and some male coho.

photo by Joanna Wong

Like so many of her nation, Gennevieve Mack is an expert in preparing salmon for smoking.

photo by Joanna Wong

The salmon is significant to the T'Soo-ke first nation both as a food source and as a cultural symbol for social and ceremonial purposes.

The fish have returned to the Sooke river after three to five years of growing and feeding in the sea. They will hold in the flats area until they are ready to spawn.

In the spring the salmon will school up as small "fry" fish in estuaries before they migrate into the open ocean. The precise time the fish arrive at the mouth of the Sooke river can be estimated to within 10 days.

Most of the bright green web of the seine net is now piled on shore and captive salmon are beginning to thrash and dance violently. Waist-deep in water, the T'Soo-ke fisherpeople calmly and methodically sort through the fish. Appropriate catches are thrown upon shore and clubbed swiftly over the head with a metal rod. Endangered stocks are gathered up in strong arms and slid over the cork line of the net.

One of the fishermen pulls a large rock out of the webbing. "Who's rock-fish?" he asks to a loud chorus of laughter.

The damage that B.C. salmon populations have suffered in the last five years is extensive. Marine survival rates for coho declined from a range of eight to 15 per cent in the late 1980s to a range of one to 60 per cent in 1996/1997. While all coho populations were unhealthy, the impact was most severe in the Thompson river area in southern B.C. Reduced fishing rates for coho resulted in some improvement, but severe conservation concerns remain.

The complications facing salmon populations can be summarized as "the four Hs": hydropower, habitat, hatcheries and harvest. Salmon are threatened by dams and other damages to the state of the habitat from mining, logging and pollution. Use of hatchery fish to replenish the salmon stocks is also a contentious issue due to concerns about a declining gene pool. And as always, the overharvesting and irresponisible fishing practices of the past are major obstacles. To complicate matters, salmon as a resource represent large financial stakes, and viewpoints between the various interest groups are often conflicting.

A recent UN resolution to look at ecosystem-based fisheries worldwide holds promise that attitudes are changing.

Salmon are also generally a genetically "plastic" species whose short lifespan and large number of progeny allow them to adapt to different situations.

"Their lifestyle is used to hardship," says David Lightly.

As the official biologist who lives and works in the T'Soo-ke nation, Lightly regulates and manages all the fisheries programs.

"The goal is to let the T'Soo-ke nation take an active role in the management and restoration of its fisheries," says Lightly.

Joe Planes is a part of Lightly's sustainable fisheries program. When the salmon season ends in November Joe will work mapping out the Sooke waters with computer Global Positioning System (GPS) technology. Joe goes out on the river everyday, helping to catch the 12,000 fish eaten and shared by the 140-odd members of his community each season.

Back at the T'Soo-ke nation a small community of bungalows and portables, the salmon are being gutted and prepared for smoking. Hands glistening with fish slime, Gennevieve Mack slices the bright pink flesh with practiced ease. The body of the salmon is opened up like a butterfly and skewered with cedar sticks so it can be hung up in the smoke house.

Gennevieve was taught how to prepare salmon by her great-grandmother.

"She was an excellent teacher, my great-grandmother. She was everything," says Gennevieve.

While much of today's catch will be hung in the smokehouse to be saved and eaten in spring, some of it is being barbequed for lunch.

John Warren, the chef, is using a traditional method, smoking the salmon with dry and green alder wood. The fish are left plain except for a bit of coarse salt and demerra brown sugar. Warren likes to can and smoke his Salmon.

"I'd eat it every day of the week if I could," says Warren.

Ben, one of the youngest members of the T'Soo-ke nation, is of a different opinion.

"I don't like salmon," he says, sticking out his tongue. "I like chicken."

Like their ancestors, the T'Soo-ke nation uses all the parts of the fish. Flesh is smoked or made into jerky, eggs made into soup, and bones and guts are given to the dogs.

Hudson Webster, another elder of the T'Soo-ke nation, loves salmon heads.

"I eat the eyeballs, the meat in the cheeks and I suck on the brains," says Webster. "It's delicious," he says, laughing, "it's brain food."

From Russia with film, by the skin of his teeth

by Tim Harvey

After a journey by foot, raft, kayak and rowboat from high-alpine Mongolia to the Siberia's arctic ocean shores, Vancouver Island-native Colin Angus is back to share stories, slides and video at the University Centre Auditorium at 8 pm on November 8.

Angus will be joined by teammates Ben Kozel, Tim Cope, and Remy Quinter, who is currently editing film collected on the five-month, $5,500 expedition down the Yenisey River.

The foursome were the first group in history to travel the length of the world's fifth longest river under human power. Kozel and Angus made a similar trip in 1999, from coast to coast across South America, and they were the first people to survive by raft of the Amazons's treacherous tributary, the Apurimac.

Kozel's introduction to kayaking came in UVic's McKinnon pool, where Angus often trained with the kayak club. Quinter met Kozel and Angus last year when hired to edit the video footage of the Amazon, which was shown to a sold-out fundraising event at UVic just days prior to their departure.

Since returning from Siberia Quinter has worked to compress the 42 hours of film into a documentary scheduled to premiere for the UVic audience.

He is lucky to have so much to work with: a bag containing all the trip's exposed and unexposed film was washed away by a flash flood when the raft was washed into a submerged forest and capsized. Angus jumped in a kayak with only a pair of pants, a knife and a lighter, to search for the missing bag.

"There wasn't any way to make a systematic search," Angus said. "The flooded forest was a couple of kilometres wide and currents were strong. I knew the bag could be stuck on a tree, or far downriver, so locating it would be like finding a needle a haystack."

After a two-hour search Angus spent two days waiting for his companions on the riverbank until finally, assuming they'd slipped past him, he continued downriver.

For a week he was sunburned by day, freezing by night and forced to drink from a river full of the floating carcasses of a massive cattle die-off that were picked up in the flood. He survived on nettles and rhubarb, and bird eggs when he could find them.

"The meals weren't satisfying but kept me going, barely," Angus said. "For dessert I would slash a birch tree and lick the syrupy sap [that] issued forth."

Four days and 150 kilometres downriver from where the raft capsized, Angus – now in the grip of sunstroke and advancing paranoia – encountered a group of fishermen who were in possession of a familiar waterproof bag.

To his great relief it contained all the valuable film documenting the early stages of their journey, and more importantly, a protective paddling jacket that Colin had lived in for the next three days. Assuming he was still upriver of the raft, he paddled for almost 55 hours with only six hours rest until he arrived at Sur Bataar, on Mongolia's Russian border, 500 kilometres north of the flooded forest.

Here he survived on the hospitality of the Mongolian military (contrary to Times Colonist reports that he was being "detained"), and five days behind him, Angus's rafting companions rowed into town.

Feats of physical endurance were only one aspect of the expedition.

"Compared to the Amazon trip this was a far greater cultural adventure," Angus said, "largely due to having Tim along on the Russian side, because his fluency brought down the language barrier we'd faced in South America."

Another of Cope's assets was having friends in the Russian mafia, who helped the group in unpredictable ways.

"I've never seen such decadence, such extreme wealth, and yet these people live in fear," Angus said. "They have ridiculous security – we drove around in an armored Suburban, with a bag of guns and a 300 pound thug who scouted ahead whenever we went anywhere. . .it was like a spy movie that's almost cheesy."

For a week he was sunburned by day, freezing by night and forced to drink from a river full of floating [cattle] carcasses...

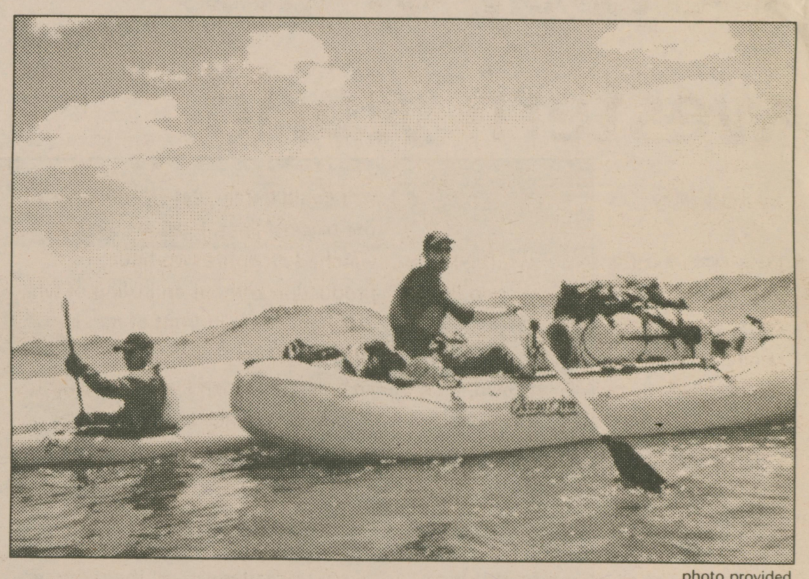

photo provided

Row, row, row your boat gently down the carcass-riddled stream... Colin Angus (l) kayaks and Ben Kozel rows the raft along the Yenisey River.

The trip progressed past everything from bomb-grade plutonium factories to open tundra where teepee-dwellers still survived by hunting reindeer.

"We saw beautiful landscape but also places where factories were hidden by their own smoke and the tundra was dead for miles," Angus said. "We ate a lot of fish, which were better than in the Amazon, probably because it was cold and they needed more fat."

On flat water each person rowed one hour and then took a three hours break, each having writing projects to pursue. Kozel finished a book detailing his Amazon trip and Quinter wrote updates for the Vancouver Sun.

"It was a great atmosphere for writing, with the inspiring landscape and a productive atmosphere," said Angus, who was surrounded by talented writers (Angus's first book, *Amazon Extreme*, was released earlier this year).

But the team wasn't slacking off. For months they paddled day and night to reach the arctic ocean before cold weather would freeze the river, and perhaps their bones, like the preserved remains of WW2 prisoners of war that litter parts of Russia's extreme north.

Another goal was to arrive home in time to produce a documentary for the tour that kicks off November 8 at UVic. After chasing down that bag of film Angus is particularly motivated not to miss the event.

Tickets can be purchased for $8 students and seniors, $12 adults, at the UVic Box Office, Ocean River Sports and Prism Photo Finishing.

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Playboy of the western world

by Matt Jarry

I was really excited to go way the hell out into the depths of Metchosin last Friday to see a play at a federal penitentiary. In light of possibly pissing off the residents of William Head, I have to say I didn't really enjoy this play. Maybe enjoy is a bad word, perhaps understand is better.

The anticipation of arriving at the prison was more fun than the actual production. After signing in, passing through the quarantine, where subsequently I was told to stand in line while a 2-year-old Black Lab sniffed around my bits 'n' pieces looking for drugs, weapons, bombs, etc., I was on my way to the theatre/gymnasium via transport bus.

Once inside the theatre I felt at ease. I didn't really dwell on the fact that I was in prison, a place I hadn't considered hanging out in at all.

I could barely understand any of the players' lines. I just sat there and watched an entire two-hour production without an inkling of what was happening in front of me. I laughed when everyone else laughed and clapped when I was supposed to, but I hadn't a clue as to why I was doing these things except that I didn't want to be the only one there not laughing and clapping.

I thought I could owe a great deal of my understanding of the show to my roommate who seemed to understand what was going on until, at the end of the play, he said, "So what just happened in there?"

The stage props were great, the actors were full of enthusiasm and passion, but frankly they were impossible to understand.

Maybe some of the other audience members picked up some of those translator earpieces that you see diplomats at the United Nations meetings wearing. I guess I missed out on those, I was too consumed with the barbed-wire fences and nostalgia of being in jail.

I laughed when everyone else laughed and clapped when I was supposed to, but I hadn't a clue as to why I was doing these things except that I didn't want to be the only one there not laughing and clapping.

There were refreshments in the back and pictures of previous plays by the William Head on Stage Theatre Society lining the walls.

We settled into our seats with coffees and juices as the lights went down. *Playboy of the Western World* began and I sat there in awe. Not in the sort of awe like when I saw Europe for my first time, more like the awe when I had my first university-style lecture experience.

Put on by the William Head on Stage Theatre Society (WHoS), *Playboy of the Western World* takes place in County Mayo, Ireland 1906. Our protagonist, Christy Mahon (Chris Williams), has just fled the farm he and his father (Ryan Love) worked on, after murdering his father. After this setup I was lost by what seemed to be attempted Irish accents.

After the play was finished I heard many of the audience members saying, "I liked it but I didn't understand it," which to say the least made me feel better.

Though my first experience with WHoS was a difficult one I would not hesitate to go and see another production by them. The players enthusiasm and acting ability were very potent but they really needed to work out issues with clarity and enunciation in their dialogue. So how was this play? Good or bad, well...I'll let you be the judge of that. (No pun intended).

I want my non-linear narrative

An ambiguous review of the Phoenix's *Endgame*

by Käthe Lemon

To ask what *Endgame* is about is to completely miss the point. Like Beckett's better known play, *Waiting for Godot*, *Endgame* is about the timeless questions of life, existence, everything.

It is a humorous play about the tragedy of life, or is that a tragic play about the great comedy of life and the absurdity of existence? But in the traditional sense of "what happens?" *Endgame* isn't about anything.

As the first play in the Phoenix's season, *Endgame* opens a group of pieces that seem to critique the very nature of the contemporary theatre.

Although it was written in 1957, *Endgame* still has the ability to make audiences uncomfortable – the average North American theatre-goer still isn't sure what to do with the confusing dialogue and pared-down set of this play. We still haven't come to grips with non-traditional story lines where we can't easily point out the beginning, middle and end in that order. The people next to me spent most of the hour and 40 minutes fidgetting and glancing side-long at their watches.

This is not to say that the Phoenix hasn't done a wonderful job both in selection and execution of this piece.

The Phoenix's *Endgame* highlights the great talents of both the faculty and students in the department. Each of the four actors in the show deftly navigate both the biting humour and bleak tragedy of their parts.

Devon Pipars, as Nell, gives us a character longing for the past and denying the present. Zachary Stevenson, as Nagg, is a man who has aged to the point of regressing to infancy. Ryan Arnold, as Clov, shows us a young man who must make the basic choice of whether to leave home or not. He is also a stand-in for the much-maligned audience whose curiosity keeps them in their seats whether they want to be there or not. In this way, each of the characters are simultaneously an abstract archetype and an individual.

John Krich, as Hamm, has perhaps the most complex part. Hamm can be read as a stand-in for Beckett himself. His unveiling at the beginning of the play is Beckett's unveiling of his work. Hamm is the storyteller who denies his audience the story, giving out only small details at a time, promising treats that don't exist.

From the set and costume design to the superb acting, everything in the Phoenix's production is deceptively simple. But below the surface lies an intricate web of mounting tensions, each element pulling together to create a cohesive whole.

This tension and its continual elevation through the play is the key to enjoying *Endgame*. If you are uncomfortable with the tension, and fight against it, this play will be something you must grit your teeth and endure. But if you can recognize the tension as part of what it is "about," *Endgame* is a play that will make you think instead of merely shake your head in despair.

And thinking is what we're here for, both as students and as part of an audience. *Endgame* is not a nice light evening out. But it is provocative and important. If that is what you're looking for, you couldn't do better.

Endgame plays at the Phoenix theatre until October 27. All student tickets are half price ($9) excluding Friday and Saturday nights. For tickets call the box office at 721-8000

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More than just Kid Rock and Eminem

by Miranda Post

In a 1988 Wire magazine interview Derrick May described Detroit techno as "just like Detroit, a complete mistake. It's like George Clinton and Kraftwerk stuck in an elevator with only a sequencer to keep them company."

For me Detroit tech is a phrase that djs and magazines throw around. The dictionary strips the word techno down to a "style of fast heavy electronic dance music with few or no vocals." So what exactly is Detroit techno? Is it house music without vocals, trance without the epic buildups? No and no.

For Marc Christensen, a Wayne University English PhD student, techno is something that surrounded him living in the Steel City.

"I grew up around the music scene even before it had the term techno associated with it, which didn't happen until 1988 when it was being marketed into Britain," Christensen said.

Christensen is working on a Masters thesis on the identification politics that caused the emergence of Detroit techno. He sees the music pioneered by first wave gurus Derrick May, Juan Atkins, Jeff Mills and Kevin Saunderson or second wave innovators Kenny Larkin and Stacey Pullen as politically significant not only in its abstract sound but also in its production.

> The theme of Detroit techno is real emotion behind everything. That's what distinguishes it from other music. It's not coloured or tainted by anything. Take it or leave it as it is.
>
> *Spencer*

"Detroit techno emerges as a response to not only the disintegration of the traditional metropolitan core but also to the racialization of identifying the city as the site of the problem where the city is 80 per cent black. There is a racial problem implicit in the way the city is located as the centre of the disintegration. There are lots of problems with that. Techno responded in a way by being a music that claimed a kind of future authority for a metropolis that in Derrick May's words would be futuristic, very integrated and funky."

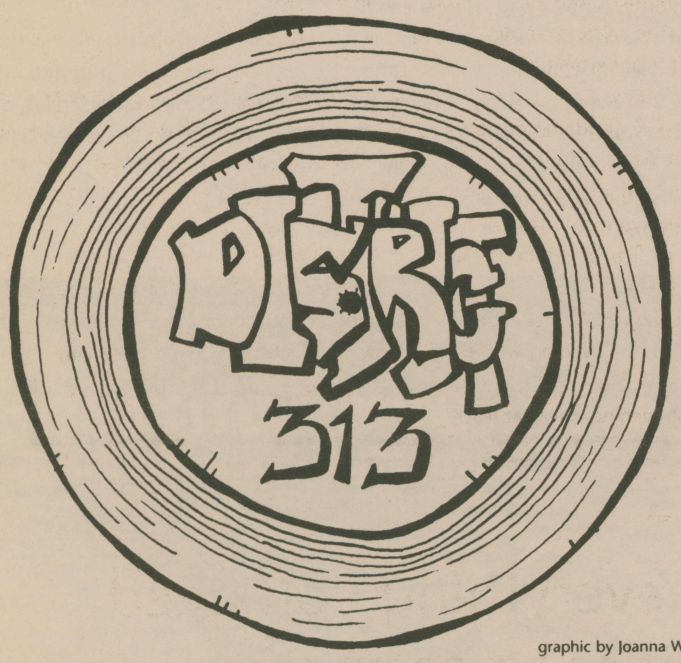
Detroit's sound is something that local dj and Itiswhatitis frontman Spencer finds hard to define but easy to play. Spencer has been collecting records produced in Detroit for over 12 years.

"Its an analogue sound for the most part. There are so many people who come from Detroit with their own spin and take on [techno]. It doesn't necessarily mean they have one style or that they're all going to sound the same," the Itiswhatis Recordings founder said. "A lot of sounds merge into each other. There's the electro-Detroit and then there's the ghetto-bootyteque. There is so much music that comes from there."

Spencer sees the birth and evolution of Detroit techno as more of an emotional phenomenon.

"The theme of Detroit techno is real emotion behind everything. That's what distinguishes it from other music. It's not coloured or tainted by anything. Take it or leave it as it is," said Spencer. "There are hundreds of artists that come from there. I think people are very mislead. When people hear the word techno they think its going to be, 'Boom boom boom.' Techno to me is a hypnotic, futuristic sound."

For more samples of Detroit techno I'm keeping my ears to the street, or rather the elevator because you never know what sounds might emerge.



graphic by Joanna Wong

Brilliant indie rock

by Robin Platts

This Saturday, October 27, Lucky Bar hosts an evening with one of the finest indie rock groups on the planet, the Pernice Brothers. Did I say "one of the finest?" Forget that. The Pernice Brothers are the finest group out there right now. Pure melodic rock brilliance.

The group's resident genius, singer-songwriter Joe Pernice, got into the music biz while attending university in North Hampton, Massachusetts.

Pernice was already into a graduate degree when his band, the Scud Mountain Boys, got signed to indie label Sub Pop. At that point, he wasn't really envisaging music as a career. "It was really for fun," Joe recalled. "No real aspirations – it just sort of happened."

As the Scud Mountain Boys continued playing around town, Pernice approached Sub Pop to do a number of seven inches with his brother, Bob, who plays guitar.

"My brother and I had always played together," said Pernice, "but never really that seriously. So we did two seven inches as the Pernice Brothers, while I was still in the Scud Mountain Boys."

Pernice soon realized he couldn't pursue the musical direction he wanted with the Scud Mountain Boys. "I wanted to do different things," he said.

"I wanted to experiment more, and take advantage of multi-tracking. Make pop records. I was writing more and more music that didn't fit the Scud Mountain Boys. So I decided to just make the Pernice Brothers my full time thing."

At that point Joe was undergoing a musical rebirth of sorts, discovering new sounds and reacquainting himself with some old ones.

"I was writing like crazy. And I was revisiting a lot of music that I hadn't heard in a long time. Going back to listening to the Beatles and Jimmy Webb stuff. Listening to Harry Nilsson, getting turned on to Nick Drake, revisiting Big Star, the Beach Boys and the Zombies. I was all over the map, in a happy way."

Those influences all came to bear on the Pernice Brothers' first album, *Overcome By Happiness*, released by Sub Pop in 1998. The album has been hailed as a masterpiece of lush pop sounds and melodies, offset by melancholy lyrics. The group's second album, *The World Won't End* came out in September, grounding the Pernice Brothers' classic pop tunes in more driving arrangements.

"I wanted this record to be more of a guitar record," said Pernice. "Rather than kind of a real tip of the hat to '60s pop."

Although the Pernice Brothers have never played Victoria before a couple of the members might just look familiar to Victorians. Laura Stein and Mike Belitsky are both ex-members of the Halifax group Jale, who were signed to Sub Pop at the same time as the Scud Mountain Boys.

"I met Mike and Laura when I was still signed to Sub Pop, when I was in the Scud Mountain Boys," said Joe. "We played a few shows together and became friends. I always liked their band. I was forming the Pernice Brothers around the same time as Jale disintegrated so I asked them if they wanted to play with me and they said yes. That was about three years ago."

Asked to describe the Pernice Brothers' sound, Joe said, "It's kind of classic pop music. What that means I'm not exactly sure. Certainly influenced by classical pop melodies, we try to be hooky. Maybe the lyrics are a bit of a bummer, but I don't know."

The lyrics may be a bummer but, as Elton John pointed out, sad songs say so much. And the Pernice Brothers' sad songs say plenty – gorgeous pop masterpieces unlike anything else that's out there right now.

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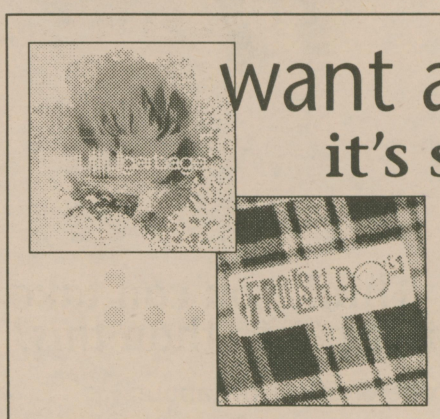

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Sister's gonna work it out

by Miranda Post

She knows British house goddess Ann Savage. She played her first party two months after breaking in her first tech-12s. She's been voted one of the top djs in Toronto. She is AMtrak and she's coming to school Victoria householders in the art of mixing touch, organic sound and personality behind the decks.

"I think djing is about 60 per cent talent and 40 per cent personality," said Ann McCullough, aka dj AMtrak. "For some people it swings much further in either direction, meaning some djs have a tonne of personality and not as much talent because they can move the crowd. Some people have tonnes of talent and zero personality but they can still rock the crowd with their technical ability. I'm probably more towards the middle. I definitely think stage presence and energy are important."

Amtrak has played and collected records since 1994. When she saw Donald Glaude play at Summer Love '96 she decided to channel her musical talents and love of performance into djing. Since then AMtrak has chartered many residencies and made a name for herself in the Canadian and international music scene.

AMtrack was part of an all-female dj night called Sirens in Vancouver, played at the New Music Conference in Miami and for the past two years she's held down a weekly residency at the Element Bar in Toronto, a Queen Street nightspot. She also travels to Vancouver on a monthly basis to play at the Drink.

AMtrak's ability to move the crowd to her signature blend of funky house is something she attributes to her musical background and femaleness.

"I played the clarinet and saxophone so I know how to read and write music. If you can visualize what the music looks like on paper and you know how to read it then beat matching can make more sense to you," she said.

"I find women pick up [djing] so much faster than men. Every woman I know that I've shown can do it. Right off the top. I don't know what that is. I don't want to say that women are better than men. I'm not trying to make a gender issue out of it. Women just seem to have that in them."

Though AMtrak is tired of talking about being a female in a boys-club business, she recognizes a difference in the male and female dj experience.

"I think women bring something different to the tables. I've never actually been able to put my finger on exactly what it is. It could be more emotion. It could be literally how [men and women] touch the record."

AMtrak likens her turntable experience to an "all you can eat buffet" of organic sound. "My music is deep, tribal, funky, jazzy. All the elements that I liked before and now. What I really like about my music is the organic part of it. I really like music that has live instruments-whether it be a guitar, a saxophone, a horn or a trumpet. As long as it has some element that makes it sound like it's not coming out of a computer."

photo provided

Freaky Flow shuts down the house

by Elianna Lev

The George Forman Grill could sell itself without the infomerical.

The same should go for music – in particular Friday's Freaky Flow show, which marked the last known show at Vertigo Niteclub. Although Freaky Flow's skills were indisputable, the same thing sadly couldn't be said for MC Flipside, who accompanied Flow for a majority of the three-hour set. Flipside acted like an infomercial for Flow, giving him props every five minutes, freestyling about his "mad skills" and giving shout-outs to the "old schoolers" in the house. All around, MC Flipside was distracting.

With a nearly sold-out crowd, most of whom wore some combination of Snug, Litium, and Lushious, the vibe in Vertigo was definitely a positive one. It had been nearly eight years since I'd last seen Freaky Flow, the last time being in the then-booming rave scene in Toronto, with the Flowmeister just starting out. Since then, the buzz has certainly grown around the man and with good reason. If only his MC hadn't been so darn irritating. I didn't think many people in the hug-friendly crowd would have shared my sentiment, but when I ran into my friend Kate, the music director at CFUV, I was relieved to hear I wasn't the only one thinking bad thoughts.

"The MC ruined the whole goddammed show, I left at 12:30," was all she had to say.

After the show, people I ran into kept saying the same thing. I started to wonder if this thought was universal and if so, why didn't Freaky Flow know yet?

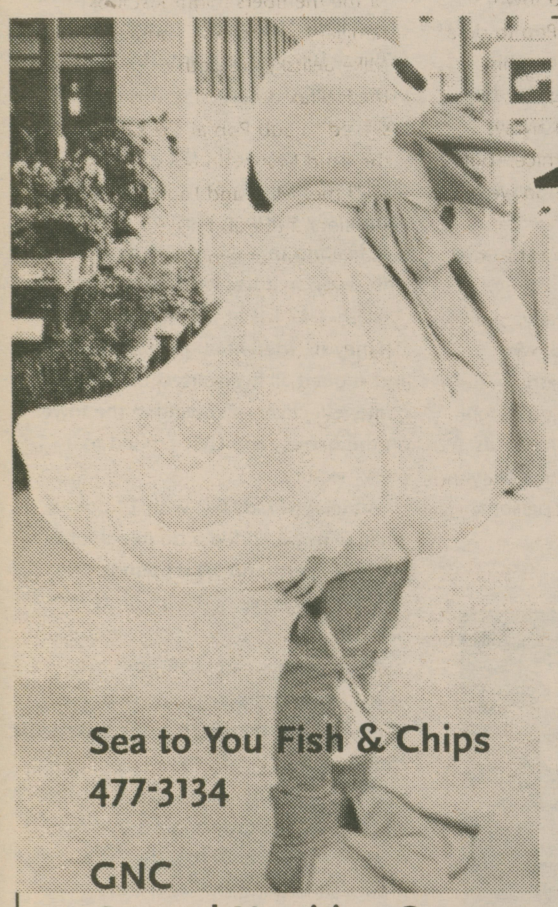
And although Freaky Flow's background beats were positively scrumptious, the evening was definitely bittersweet.

It marked Vertigo's last evening open, at least for the next undisclosed amount of time. Flipside made sure the crowd knew this, announcing it a number of times throughout the night, at one point even bringing up "his man" David Tillson, the events coordinator of Vertigo.

Even though the irritaing banter from MC Flipside stood in the way of a near-perfect final evening at Vertigo, it was a good way to get UVic students to say goodbye to their only campus night club.

photo by Elianna Lev

Toronto's drum 'n' bass dj Freaky Flow raised the roof at Vertigo's final show.



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UVic sweeps home stand

by Iain McLetchie

Any Canadian Intervarsity Sport (CIS) basketball team with a seven-footer shouldn't be taken lightly. Unfortunately for the University of Calgary Dinosaurs, seven-foot centre Brent Laycock's game is more reminiscent of Jon Koncack than David Robinson.

Fortunately for the Dinos, their high-scoring guard duo of Whit Hornsberger and John Riad more than make up for the lack of interior prowess, a fact which the University of Victoria Vikes found out Saturday night.

After pounding the University of Saskatchewan Huskies Friday night 82-54, the Vikes entered Saturday night's tilt on a high note.

With the loss of starting guards Shaun Doherty and Josh Payne to injury, UVic was forced to play a slower style of game than they would have liked, a fact head coach Guy Vetrie recognized.

Point Guard Regan Daly stepped into the void left by Doherty, and logged a heavy load, playing all 40 minutes. Vetrie was happy with Daly's play.

"Regan played very well and shouldered a heavy load, playing a lot of minutes this weekend."

The loss of Doherty affected the Vikes transition game.

"Our running game is non-existent without Shaun there. His return will definitely help our offensive game."

The first half reflected the loss. Behind forward Orlando Fergusson's slicing and dicing to the hoop, UVic took an early 21-11 lead by the 10-minute mark of the first half and looked to be in complete control.

Not so fast, though. It took six minutes for UVic to register their next point, as a slew of offensive fouls took the wind out of their sails and completely slogged the game pace.

The scoreless streak ended on forward Nate Ashmead's fastbreak layup, off a nice feed from guard Eric Rushton.

Ashmead, who finished with 12 points and five rebounds, punctuated the half by leveling Hornsberger with a solid pick at the top of the key, and UVic went into the locker room with a three-point lead.

The Vikes stormed out of the gate in the second half, building a 40-29 lead by the 15:16 mark. Calgary had no answer for Fergusson, who continually found a path to the hoop with a quick first step and deceptive hesitation dribble, and coach Dan Van Hooren was forced to call a timeout in order to stop the bleeding.

It worked, as Riad went off, gunning for two quick hoops. His running-mate Hornsberger starting dropping crazy off-kilter treys, and, after Riad's pull-up bomb tied the score at 55, we had a game again.

UVic didn't roll over though, quickly rebuilding an eight-point lead after Daly and Keith Bustard dropped successive three-pointers, made possible by solid offensive rebounding from the UVic forwards.

Calgary called a timeout and, once again, the Dinos responded. Hornsberger dropped three quick treys and Riad scored on two circus shots in the lane, making the score 79-77 for UVic with 32 seconds left.

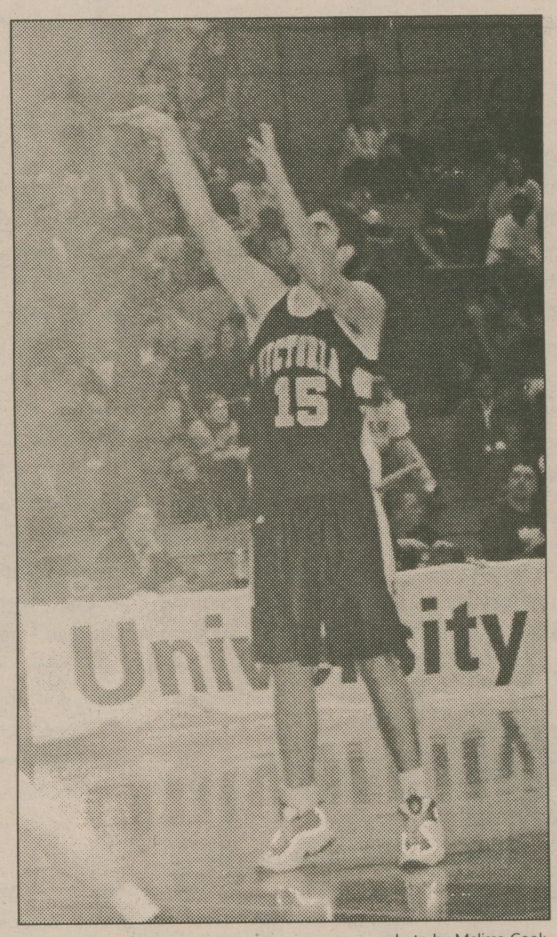

photo by Melissa Cook

UVic's Sandy Bisaro takes a free throw in Saturday night action against the Calgary Dinos at McKinnon Gym.

With the possession arrow in UVic's favour, it was up to Fergusson to seal the deal with a hoop. As the shot clock ran out, his foul-line jumper clanked short off the rim and Calgary gained possession for one last attempt.

Dino forward Andy Stordeur was hacked underneath the rim, and faced the daunting task of making two free throws for the tie. He didn't, missing the first and deliberately missing the second.

After Daly sunk one of two foul shots, Hornsberger raced downcourt for one last shot. His long-distance bomb was snuffed by UVic's Jason Crawford and UVic danced off the court with an 80-77 victory.

Vetrie was impressed with his team's effort, especially with the offensive game of Fergusson, who led the Vikes with 23 points and six boards.

"He's very explosive and can score very quickly," said Vetrie. "He's capable of scoring two or three baskets back-to-back at anytime."

With a young, maturing team the Vikes should battle for top spot in the West division of the Canada West Conference.

The Vikes start the Canada West regular season on Nov. 1 at the University of Regina.

Women's B-Ball stampedes Western

by Iain McLetchie

After hammering the University of Western Ontario Mustangs 70-49 on Friday night, it could have been thought that the UVic Vikes women's basketball squad didn't have much left to prove.

Head Coach Brian Cheng might have left that impression with his postgame comments.

"We've improved every game and made great strides so far," said Cheng. "Friday was the high point of our improvement. We were very happy to see [the level of play] from a coach's point of view."

This gave the bench a chance to pick up the slack, and they did just that, as reserve forwards Jania Mynott and Lisa Erickson both put in solid minutes.

In keeping with the aggressive nature of their team moniker, the Mustangs kept attacking the UVic defense with a variety of quick passes and quicker shots, but unfortunately displayed the finishing touch of a gelded mule.

Western's scoring area extended to roughly a three-metre radius from the hoop, an offensive shortcoming which was brought on by aggressive perimeter defense from the Vikes.

> Every game's a challenge because we have a new group. We will only be as good as our ability to come together.
>
> *Brian Cheng*

However, the Mustangs were still in town Saturday night, and were looking for some vengeance for the previous night's shellacking.

Western Coach Bob Delaney, who Cheng described as "very smart," saw the weaknesses of his squad's game and completely changed the focus of the Mustangs' attack.

"On Saturday, they went with a box-and-one defence against Lindsay Anderson," said Cheng. Anderson scorched Western for 27 points on Friday and is regarded as one of the top players in the country.

This change in defensive approach, as well as a new focus on pass penetration, caused some early concerns for the UVic squad, who adjusted slowly to the Western penetration. The result was quick foul trouble for UVic as starting forwards Lindsay McDonald and Jennifer Diana each picked up their fourth personal early in the second half.

The result was a 15-point UVic lead by the 10-minute mark of the second half, a lead which could have been much larger if not for some free-throw deficiencies.

At that point, the Vikes started flashing some of their potential. A nifty baseline drive and dish from point guard Kelly Devlin to a cutting Krystal O'Byrne for a three-point play. A three-point bomb from reserve guard Allison Roberts.

Most importantly, the Vikes displayed a stingey team defence that continually stripped Western of the ball, leading to a whopping 52-33 lead with seven minutes left to play.

With 3:47 left in the match, Delaney decided enough was enough and subbed all five starters out of the game, effectively throwing in the towel on the game, and UVic cruised to a 63-47 victory.

Anderson lead UVic with 14 points, while O'Byrne added a double-double with 13 points and 10 rebounds.

Cheng was pleased with his team's performance.

"The players had challenges in executing and did well," he said. "Everyone off the bench made solid contributions."

There's a long season ahead for the Vikes, and Cheng recognizes that his team needs to come together as a group, something the weekend's games helped.

"Every game's a challenge because we have a new group. We will only be as good as our ability to come together."

The Vikes' next action will come this weekend at the annual Simon Fraser University tournament, which will be a definite challenge for the already busy and tired squad.

The women's basketball squad, like the men, won't play in McKinnon Gym again until the start of the regular season, when they face Trinity Western University on Friday, Nov. 9.

Vikes' field hockey earns a trip to nationals

by Ruth Knoop

This past weekend, the Vikes Women's Field Hockey team finished second at the Canada West Championships and earned a berth at the nationals where they will defend their national title.

The Vikes played four games this past weekend against the Universities of Calgary, Alberta, Manitoba, and UBC. They easily won their first three games but lost a heart breaker to UBC Sunday afternoon.

UVic started off strong against UBC. Aggressive players like Kate Lindsay and Sara Simpson continually pushed UBC's defence and had good attempts on goal early on in the game.

UVic defence was strong as well. Andrea Rushton and Rachel Peters were excellent in their efforts to block UBC's offence from getting in too close to the goal.

Near the 20-minute mark, UVic's Chelsea Haines had one of the best scoring opportunities of the game when she managed to get the ball past UBC's goaltender Emily Menzies, but ended up just a little off on the net.

UBC's Mo O'Connor scored the first goal of the game on a penalty corner.

Arguably the best player of the game, O'Connor was a force to be reckoned with. Her quickness and impressive ball-handling skills were a huge asset to UBC's triumph.

During the second half of the game, UBC began to pull away from UVIC. However, UVIC goaltender Gillian Batey was outstanding and prevented many UBC scoring opportunities.

Batey stopped two consecutive attempts by UBC's Stephanie Hume on a penalty corner and later did the same against Laura Balakshin. Caitlin Blaschuk scored the second goal for UBC off a penalty corner.

UBC continued to put pressure on UVic. However, in the dying seconds of the game, UVic showed that the win would not come without a fight as Kate Lindsay pushed the ball past Menzies for UVic's first goal.

UVic was unable to even the score during the remaining minutes and UBC went on to win the game 2-1.

Overall, head coach Lynne Beecroft was happy with the girls' placement.

"We had our ups and downs this weekend," she said. "We definitely played better today than Friday. Friday was an off-beat game."

She remembers, though, that these athletes are also students, and school must come first.

"Some of these girls were writing midterms an hour before their first game on Friday."

photo by Horia Coman

The Vikes face off against their nemeses the UBC Thunderbirds Sunday on the UVic field hockey pitch. UBC took the game by a final score of 2-1.

As for the loss against UBC, she is not too worried.

"This was our second game today, and UBC's first."

Canada West Player of the year, Andrea Rushton, felt the loss to UBC a disappointment.

"It wouldn't have made a difference to the standings, but it would have been nice to beat them. They played really well and scored two good goals."

Her thoughts on the upcoming nationals are simple: "We want to win!"

As for her receiving the player of the year award, "It is exciting, and I am very happy. There are so many great players. If I played for any other team, I would not have got it. My teammates are great!"

Other notable Vikes players were Rachel Peters and Elise Roberts, who along with Rushton were named to the Canada West All-Conference Team.

For now, the Vikes can rejoice in their triumphs as they prepare for nationals to be held next month in Toronto.

Introducing your friendly neighbourhood mascot

by Julia Smith

The thing about Thunder, the Vike's mascot, is that he doesn't speak.

He claps, dances The Macerana and YMCA, leads water-balloon tosses and makes little kids cry, but never says a word.

He communicates through the simple body language of high fives, and thumbs up or thumbs down. The crowd loves him and no one seems to mind his silence, except for the reporter trying to interview him.

Thunder has a new look this year and said (thumbs up) that he likes it, though it is a little hot (thumbs down) and his feet are a little too big.

Last year Thunder resembled a stocky Haggar the Horrible. This year he is a five to six-foot Viking with thick yellow braids covering his head and face, buggy eyes, huge nose, horned helmet, armor, cape, kilt and humongous sandal-clad feet, each boasting an extremely large protruding big toe.

photo provided

Thunder, in the old garb, strikes a pose with a feathery friend on the field at Centennial Stadium.

Thunder appeared during the various basketball exhibition games at McKinnon Gym this weekend, waving his sword and leading a fan club of about 15 giggling pre-teen girls.

He paraded in front of the stands and joined the audience to watch the game.

Perpetually surrounded by children and curious parents, Thunder didn't get much of a chance to check the score. More often he was busy getting the crowd revved through dancing (he's quite good), hosting a water bottle toss competition, and offering his large soft hands for high fives to eager children.

Thunder is at most home games for most sports and, like Santa, usually has some presents to give away.

Not everyone appreciated Thunder. As he approached two young children they instantly clung to their mother, scrambling into her lap. Thunder sat down to join them and finally persuaded them to shake his hand, but they weren't getting too close.

Thunder admits that he often makes children cry.

He also said that he has been attacked on a number of occasions, though luckily never stolen by an opposing team. Injuries are part of the job and often occur from tripping or falling when walking.

Thunder's favorite sport is volleyball but he said the crowds are most excitable at basketball games.

The music at Friday night's game was only mediocre in Thunder's opinion but they did play his favourite, The Macerana. He also led a dance to the Village People's YMCA for timeout entertainment.

Thunder feels that his job is physically tiring. Yet, despite his bulky outfit he keeps boogying around the court.

Though he is not a shy person with or without the costume, he is thankful he has never been exposed in public. It's impossible to see who, if anyone, is beneath the Viking ensemble, and with no voice, Thunder remains a mythical character.

He has Santa Claus' uncanny ability to be everywhere at once. He is at most home games for most sports and, also like Santa, usually has some presents to give away.

With the basketball games and the field hockey tournament this past weekend, Thunder must have been one busy Viking.

come and write sports for *the Martlet.*

SUB B011

VIKES Athletics
UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA
721-8406 www.uvic.ca/vikes

VIKES SOCCER ACTION

Oct 25 Thursday — Vikes vs Lethbridge Pronghorns
- Women 6 pm
- Men 8 pm

Oct 28 Sunday — Vikes vs Calgary Dinos
- Women 12 pm
- Men 2 pm

Games at Centennial Stadium

Watching and learning about life and baseball

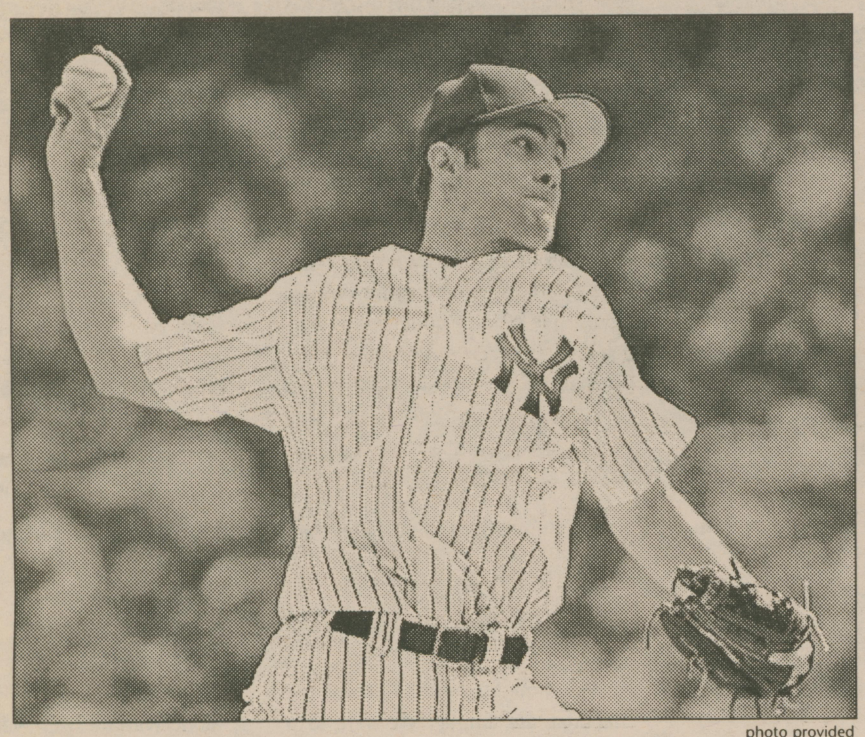

photo provided

By Craig Battle

I've said it before and I'll say it again. Sports bring people together.

Oh, wait. That's calamity. Calamity brings people together. But then again some people would equate the two anyway, which means maybe both do it.

So, yeah. Sports bring people together. Case in point. Last week Roommate Mark and I were eating noodles and watching baseball on TV. The Yankees were playing the Athletics in the second inning of the fifth and final game of the American League divisional playoffs.

When Roommate April walked into the living room, which in terms of seniority is more her living room than mine, I immediately began fumbling through the couch cushions for the remote control.

I stammered, "We can watch something else. We weren't into this anyway," thinking, of course, that she wouldn't be down with baseball playoffs.

See, two weeks earlier the three of us sat down for breakfast and watched Sunday football together. By the time we finished eating, however, the room started to clear and by the fourth quarter I was the last fan standing, like in the Highlander movies (which, by the way, you really should see if you haven't already. They're spectacular).

Admittedly, a poor scoring effort from both the Baltimore Ravens and Chicago Bears kind of killed the Sunday football venture. It was like a contest to see who could be less exciting and each team kept upping the ante. Maybe they wanted to see who could kick the most and the farthest. If so, Chicago won. Just barely.

But last week as I reached under the couch for the remote control April sat down next to me and said something like, "Sweet. I've been wanting to learn about baseball." She asked who was playing, and then, "Okay. Who's who and who's winning?" It was awesome.

We started from the beginning, or sort of from the beginning. She asked me a question, I tried to answer it. As in, "Why is that guy just walking to first base?" I answered, "Oh, he was walked." Sometimes I had to take more than one stab at it.

SHE: Walked?

ME: Sorry. The pitcher pitched him four balls. I mean, pitches that aren't strikes. I mean, balls outside the strike zone. Oh, I'm such an idiot.

> I felt like saying, "Well, it looks like my work here is done," and beaming back to which ever planet I had come from.

We went on despite obstacle and watched the Yankees win yet another divisional playoff set on their way to yet another divisional playoff series.

Before the end of the game, though, April had it down.

She began picking up on teamwork, strategy. She refuted bad calls. She even recognized a sacrifice fly (where a player pops out on purpose to advance a runner) in the ninth inning and I felt like saying, "Well, it looks like my work here is done," and beaming back to which ever planet I had come from.

Just this morning, she asked me when we're going to watch another game. I told her the World Series between the Yankees and the Diamondbacks is just about to start, "This Saturday, in fact."

April picked up the game so quickly, I'm half waiting for her to break down the series for me. Should that happen, it might go something like this:

"Well you know, Craig, the starters for both teams have been solid up until this point, especially Mike Mussina for the Yanks and the dynamic duo of Johnson and Schilling for the D-Backs. But it could come down to a battle of bullpens. Either way I wouldn't expect much of a hitting display from either club. Hey, speaking of which, pass the chew."

It could happen. I swear.

So here we are. One simple baseball game later and the core of roommates has never been tighter. Which means what, you ask? Well, it means that sports have brought us together. We are now a team, just like the Yankees or Bears, or should we be so lucky, the Vikes.

I mean, seriously. Look at Andre Agassi and Steffi Graf. Look at Anna Kournikova and Sergei Federov. Look at us. You and me. Sports brought us together. Didn't they?

come and write sports
for *the Martlet.*
We know you want to.
SUB B011

Weekend roundup

Women's Soccer

Canada West Regular Season
UVic 2 Regina 1
UVic 2 Saskatchewan 2
UVic 0 Alberta 5

The Vikes emerged from a cold prairie weekend trip with one notch in each column – one win, one loss and one tie.

UVic defeated Regina on Liz Hansen's goal in the 89th minute on Friday night to keep Regina without a single point in league standings.

The Vikes held a one-goal lead through 89 minutes the following day when the Huskies netted a penalty shot for the tie.

Alberta proved to be a little much for the Vikes come Sunday, going on to pad their record (6-0-5) and leave the Vikes at 5-4-3.

Men's Soccer

Canada West Regular Season
UVic 2 Saskatchewan 2
UVic 1 Alberta 2

The Vikes, ranked second in the nation, scored four goals Saturday afternoon against the third-ranked Saskatchewan Huskies, and still only managed a 2-2 tie.

The Vikes, with pressure in their box, scored twice on themselves in the first half.

UVic's Jason Owen tied things up in the second half to get the Vikes out of a bit of a mess.

The Bears (7-1-2) scored the only goal of the second half on Sunday to break a 1-1 tie and offer UVic (4-3-3) its third loss of the season.

Swimming

Senior Circuit #1

The UVic swim team was in action Saturday at Sannich Commonwealth Place in their first competition of the year.

Rookie swimmer Danielle Bell led the Vikes women by winning the 400 and 800 metre freestyle events. UVic's Karley Stutzel placed second behind Bell in the 400 and 800.

Standouts on the men's side included John Stamhuis and Jesse Jacks. Stamhuis won the men's 200 breaststroke, while Jacks took both the 100 and 200 metre butterfly events.

Rowing

Head of the Charles

The Vikes Varsity Men had a great weekend in Boston, MA at the Head of the Charles.

The Men's Eight finished fifth in a tough field, coming in just four seconds behind Harvard.

This is especially significant given that UVic started farther back than the other crews due to rank.

The US team finished way ahead of the pack, beating the German Rowing team by a full 12 seconds.

Women's Rugby

Canada West Championships
UVic 0 Alberta 0
Uvic 5 UBC 5
UVic 7 Lethbridge 0
Final: UVic 0 Alberta 19

The UVic women's rugby squad capped a successful season with a silver-medal performance at the Canada West Rugby Championships last weekend.

The Vikes battled their way into the finals through eventual-champion Alberta, UBC and Lethbridge.

Alberta came on strong in the final match to defeat UVic 19-0.

However, UVic fullback Sarah Hanna emerged from the final as Canada West Player of the Year.

This week in sports

HOME

SOCCER (M,W)	@ CENTENNIAL STADIUM
Oct. 25	vs. LETHBRIDGE
Oct. 28	vs. CALGARY
VOLLEYBALL (M,W)	@ MCKINNON GYM
Oct. 26, 27	vs. CAMOSUN
ROWING	@ THE GORGE
Oct. 27	HEAD OF THE GORGE
	@ ELK LAKE
Oct. 28	HEAD OF THE ELK

AWAY

MEN'S RUGBY	@ WESTERN CANADA UNIVERSITY
Oct. 25-27	RUGBY CHAMPIONSHIPS
WOMEN'S RUGBY	@ BURNABY
Oct. 27	BURNABY, BC
MEN'S BASKETBALL	@ SASKATCHEWAN TOURNAMENT
Oct. 25-27	SASKATOON, SASKATCHEWAN
WOMEN'S BASKETBALL	@ SIMON FRASER TOURNAMENT
Oct. 26-28	BURNABY, BC
CROSS COUNTRY	@ BC CHAMPIONSHIPS
Oct. 27	VANCOUVER, BC
SWIMMING	@ CLAN CUP
Oct. 27, 28	BURNABY, BC

STUDENT VOICE

Dismissing dualism is the only way to start

by Ilan Zvi Baron

The last edition of *the Martlet* contained an article about Bir Zeit University ("University at gunpoint," Oct. 18, 2001). The article painted a one-sided picture using anecdotal evidence taken out of context, and used the Jewish Star, the Star of David, as some pathetic symbol demarcating one paragraph from the next. The anti-Semitic overtones by using the Star of David in an article attempting to explain the story of Bir Zeit University and Israel, and thus equating Judaism with some disturbing acts done by the Israeli government, and consequently, insinuating that Judaism is against education is abhorrent. Furthermore, this article has done nothing to elucidate the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and has only contributed to a poor understanding of the situation constructed in simplified dualistic paradigms. Consequently, the following brief essay is one attempt at trying to tear away the oversimplified discourses that *the Martlet* publishes, and hopefully invite people to seriously engage the issue without invoking anti-Semitism.

Anyone who has been paying attention to the news over the past few weeks will have noticed how the world has "all of a sudden" become a Manichean world. This dualism where everything can be explained into either black or white, good or evil, for-us or against-us, is not only obfuscating the narratives presented, but also hinders our ability to engage important political, social, religious, and historical issues on a constructive level. This dualism is not new, and it is an incredible hurdle to deal with.

For some reason too many people think that one can only speak on behalf of Israel, or against Israel on behalf of the Palestinians. Rubbish. To believe this is to ignore greater contexts and succumb to the ridiculous manner that the news portrays the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. One can be a Zionist and believe in the rights of the Palestinians. One can be a Zionist and think that the Israeli government does horrible things. One can be a Zionist and have a social conscious; and one can be a Zionist and not be a racist.

There are groups in Israel and elsewhere that believe in the right of the Jewish State to exist, and at the same time argue that Israel needs to withdraw from the occupied territories. Israel is doing nasty and horrible things there, and in the process of occupying a people we are committing human rights abuses and are destroying the souls of Israelis as well as Palestinians.

However, too many refuse to listen to this voice. Too many people think that the idea of a Jewish State is racist, and that Israel has no right to be where it is. Moreover, too many people argue that the conflict is all Israel's fault. Two peoples have nurtured the conflict. The Israelis have contributed and so have the Palestinians. I suggest that the insecurity that many people in North America have felt since September 11 is the same sense of nerve-racking uncertainty that both Israelis and Palestinians have felt on a daily basis since 1948.

An Israeli friend of mine said something to me a few days ago, something that I hear a lot in Israel. He said that he would give up his right hand if he knew that there would be peace. However, Israelis and many others are not convinced that if Israel withdraws there will be peace, and it is not something one can test. Consequently, we need to think of confidence building measures that will lead to a more positive framework. Thinking in polarized terms is not helpful. We need to understand how to love and be critical at the same time. Opening up our ears and our hearts to all people, irrelevant of religion, locality, or ethnicity, and dismissing our dualistic simplifications is the place to start.

I believe that Israel should withdraw from the territories. Occupying the Palestinian people is a horrible thing to do, and if we do not do something about it soon things will only get worse. However, I realize that a simple withdrawal will not solve the problem. Removing the tanks will not remove the suicide bombers, there is more to it than the eye for an eye approach that operates within a dualistic discourse. On a policy level I suggest that we think on a personal level. Forget the realpolitik for a minute, *and think* about the personal. Only after we have thought about the personal can we think about the political. If there is ever to be any hope for understanding, we need to remember that there are people involved in face-to-face relationships. The next time you think about Israelis and Palestinians and the war they are fighting, think about the Israeli children that grow up in bomb shelters, and the Palestinian kids who grow up in refugee camps.

Ilan Zvi Baron is the President of UVic's branch of Canadian Friends of Peace Now.

BILLBOARDS

ON CAMPUS

Don't miss "Join Hands with Africa II" on **Sat., Oct. 27,** in the Michèle Pujol Rm in the SUB. An evening of entertainment and dancing including the band Jazz Afric from Vancouver. This fundraising event is in aid of the sponsorship of the Lansana refugee family from Sierra Leone. Tickets $15 adults/ $12 students/ $5 children age 6-12, available at the door. Starts 7 p.m., call 477-1771 for more info.

UVic's Unicef Club is organizing a great Hallowe'en pumpkin sale and carving contest ($3 entry fee)! Drop by the front of the SUB from **Oct. 29 to 31** and win some awesome prizes.

Cameo brooch lost between Clearihue, Sedgewick and HSD Wed., Oct 24. Has sentimental value. Call Eileen at 721-6248.

OFF CAMPUS

Friday, Oct. 26, Progressive Assembly presents DJ AMtrak at Sugar nightclub for a Hallowe'en celebration. Special guests include Malcolm Charles and Trever. Advance tix $10 at Boomtown Records, A&B Sound, Stylus and Retrowear. Prizes for spookiest costumes! Come enjoy Toronto's Queen of House, DJ AMtrak at Sugar.

Shambhala training: please join us for Level I, **Oct. 26 and 27**. Friday night talk free at 7:30 p.m. Entire program $75, includes lunch on Sat. and a reception. Discounts for seniors and students. to pre-register call 383-9108. Victoria Shambhala Meditation Centre, 2033 Belmont Ave.

Football Road Trip. Nov. 11 Oakland Raiders vs Seahawks $199 Cdn plus gst/person. Hockey Road Trip Nov. 30th Colorado Avalanche vs Canucks $179 Cdn plus gst/person. Both packages include return bus transportation, game ticket and hotel. Call Shawn @ 883-5843 or check out www.beafan.com

ANNOUNCEMENTS

UVic students: you may qualify for a FREE ICBC-sponsored one-day cycling traffic skills course. This is a limited-time offer with only a few spaces available, so act now. Visit the Bike to Work Society website at www.biketoworkvictoria.ca or call the hotline at 413-8000.

Scary stories of torture and death in the Political Activist section of Haultain Video, 1508 Haultain St.

EMPLOYMENT

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non-students	$2/line
businesses	$5.50/3 lines + $2/extra line
hey you!	$1/issue

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HEY YOU

'Verley, my sweet greenhouse buddy, please don't fret. Things will shape up, and if worse comes to worse you can always have my closet, I promise! Love you!

Please, darling, I'm so childish and your beauty makes me hate myself. Call me back before I start waiting for you to phone. That would be bad. Very bad.

Greetings from the dog house. As you can imagine I'm chewing on all my bones at once.

I don't like trains. They're scary.

ON THE SPOT

What are you going to be for Hallowe'en?

compiled by Ruth Knoop and Horia Coman

Philip Jubb
4th year computer science

Well, being that I am a computer science student, I am going to be Wolverine from X-men.

Dawn McNeil
2nd year general studies

Umm, the sorceress from He-Man. I haven't got it together yet, but hopefully I will.

Rosie Barnewall
1st year sciences

The paperbag princess.

Megan Thom
1st year social sciences

A peg-leg pirate.

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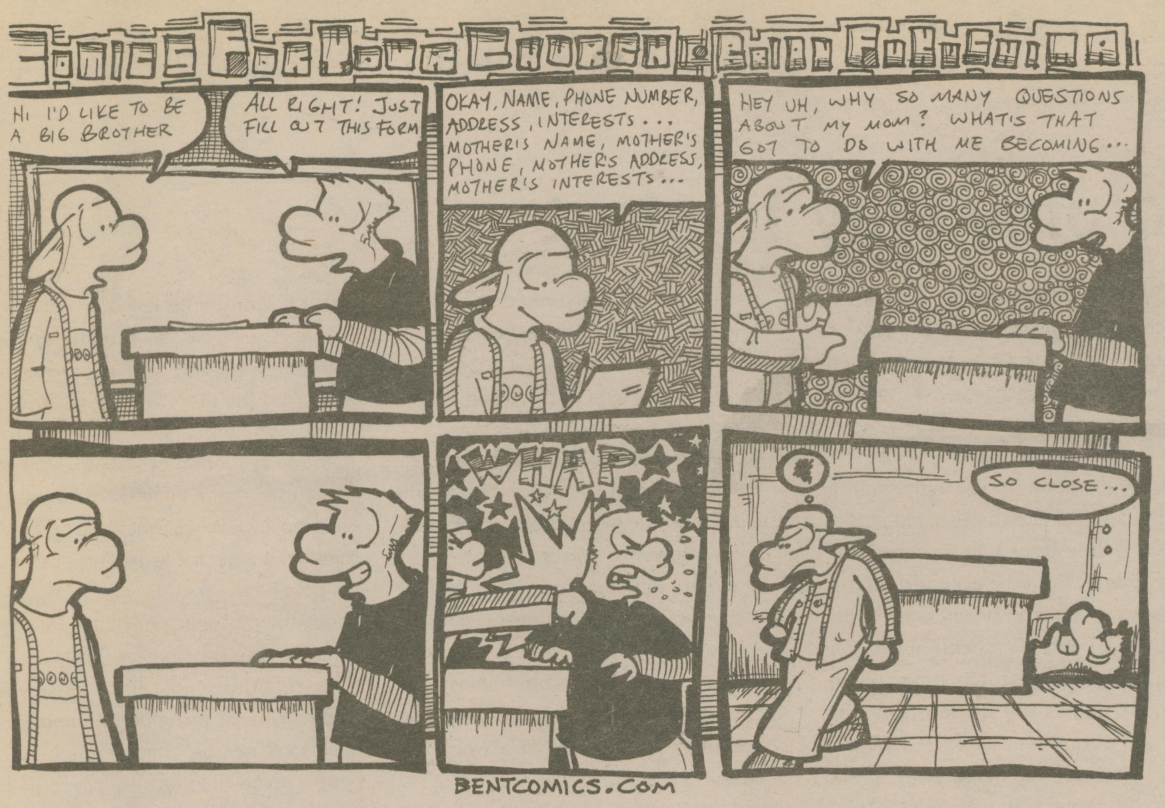
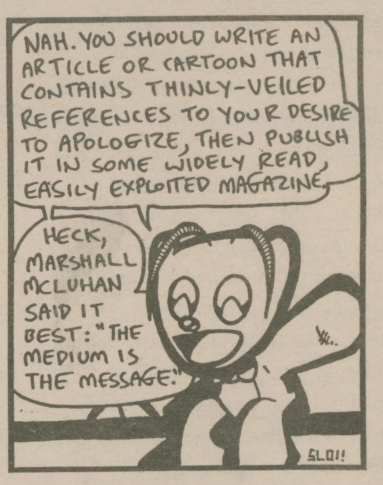
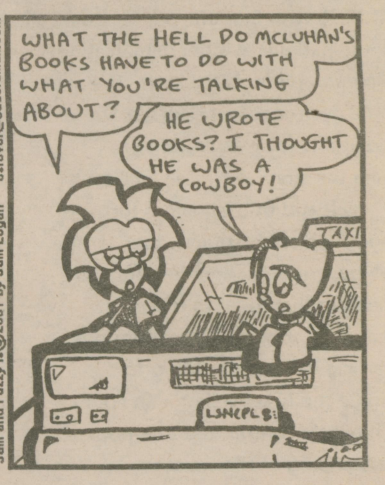
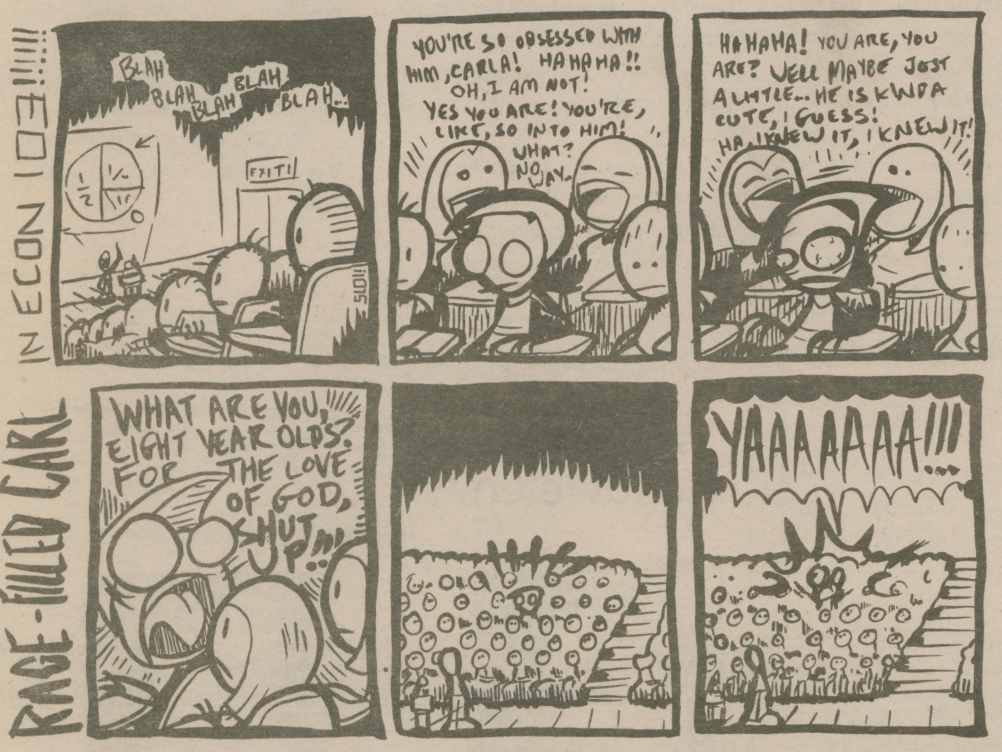
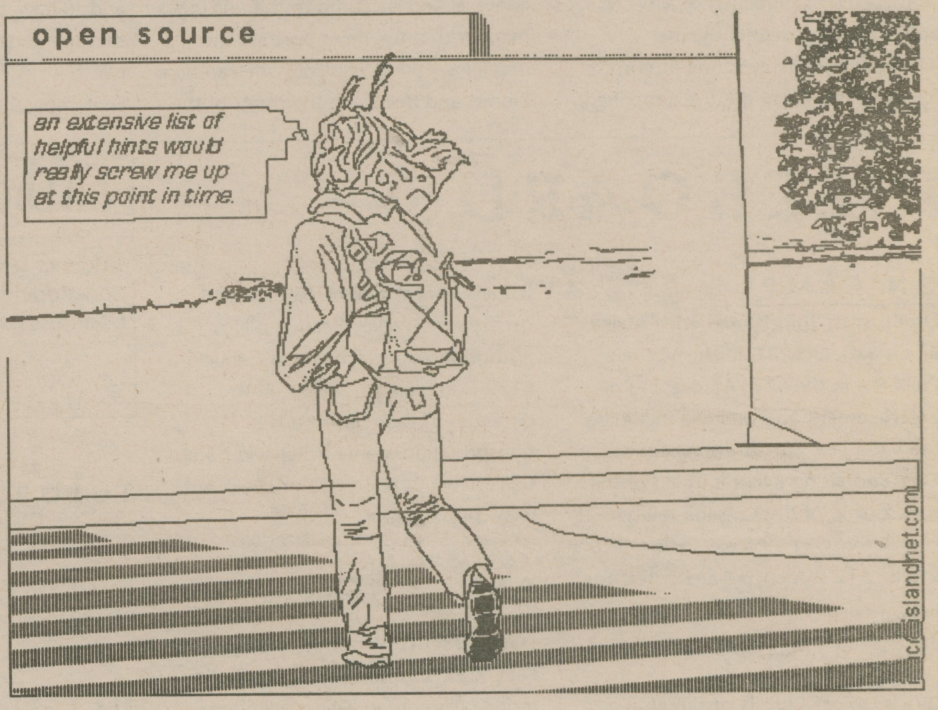

Comics For Your Church Bulletin
Hi I'd like to be a big brother
All right! Just fill out this form
Okay, name, phone number, address, interests... mother's name, mother's phone, mother's address, mother's interests...
Hey uh, why so many questions about my mom? What's that got to do with me becoming...
WHAP
So close...
BENTCOMICS.COM

BY SAM LOGAN!
What do you think the best way is to apologize to someone you don't talk to anymore for something you did a really long time ago?
Should you just do it straight, face to face?

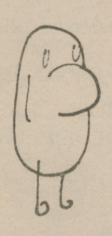

Nah. You should write an article or cartoon that contains thinly-veiled references to your desire to apologize, then publish it in some widely read, easily exploited magazine.
Heck, Marshall McLuhan said it best: "The medium is the message."
SLOW!!


What the hell do McLuhan's books have to do with what you're talking about?
He wrote books? I thought he was a cowboy!
Sam and Fuzzy is©2001 by Sam Logan esrever@eudoramail.com


IN ECON 101
BLAH BLAH BLAH BLAH...
EXIT!
You're so obsessed with him, Carla! Hahaha!!
Oh, I am not!
Yes you are! You're, like, so into him!
What? No way.
Hahaha! You are, you are? Well maybe just a little... He is kinda cute, I guess!
Ha, I knew it, I knew it!
RAGE-FILLED CARL
What are you, eight year olds? For the love of God, shut up!!!
YAAAAAAA!!!



Goombas



In the four years of this comic panel, I have never seen one taped to a door or wall

But when you find a Mardet on the floor of the can at some party where you're trashed, I promise

Never seen a girl or boy, in class or cafeteria, read it and laugh

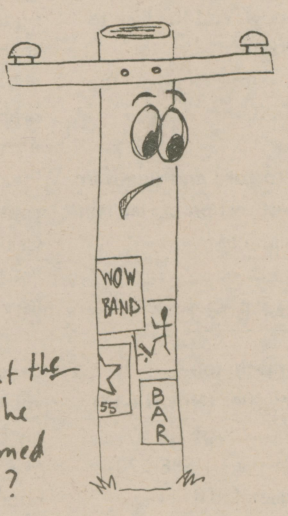
You'll find a goldmine full of tapestries on a poet's farm, in each clumsily depicted scene.

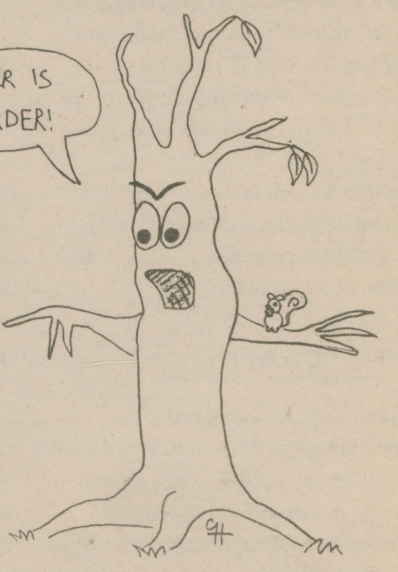
or even seem to get it.

Wait, isn't that the cup he spermed in?

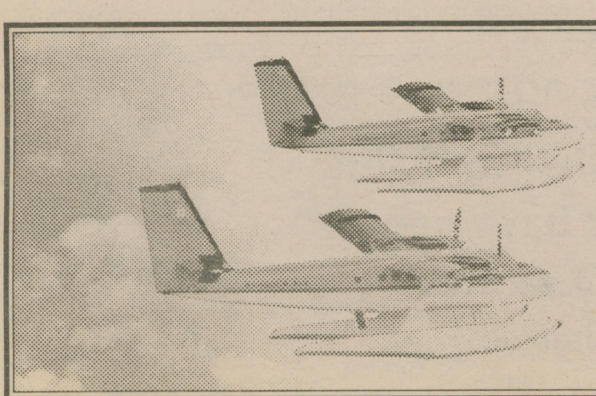
And the circle will be complete, because these comics were all produced, and even "conceived" by a drunken idiot on a can, often in a motel or gas station.

ben





Well if it isn't my arch-nemesis... Dr. Pelican.
I am not your arch-nemesis Frank. I'm your physician. Its time for your pills.
You'll never take me alive Pelican!
Nurse. Get me the restraints.
LEE



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